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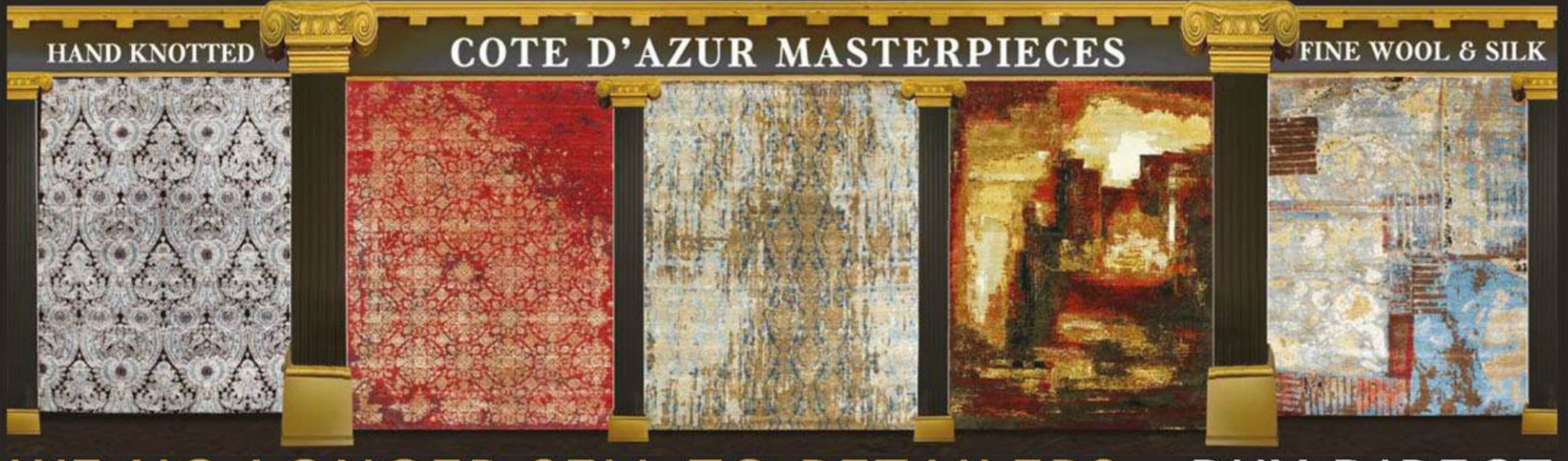

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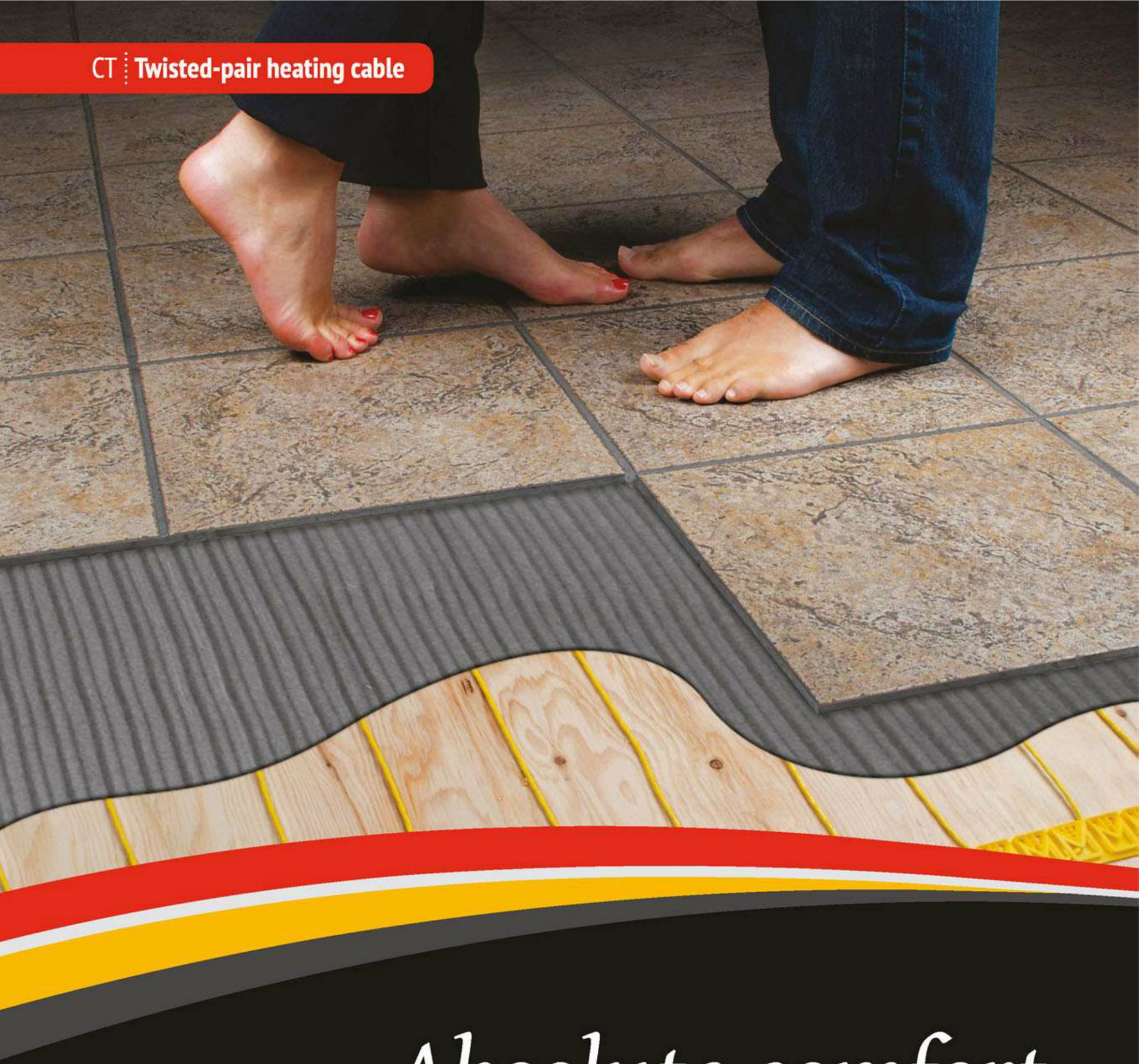

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colour guru DEBBIE TRAVIS'S CHIC LONDON STYLE

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PHOTOGRAPHY
Stacey Van Berkel

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A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

My husband may be smart, sweet and loyal, but the real reason I married him is simple: he has no interest in decorating. In fact, he's one of those men who doesn't even realize when I've repainted the dining room (from deep pink to charcoal grey, no less), or that his office has been taken apart to rebuild bookshelves (okay – maybe he did notice that…eventually!).

That doesn't mean that my husband doesn't *try* to be helpful. When I bemoaned the fact that we had to face the wall instead of the windows when we used the sink in our new kitchen, he suggested we install mirrors on the backsplash so that "we can see the view from the window in the reflection." Hmmm…I guess I have to be careful when he takes an interest. I can't be too enthusiastic when he has an opinion (he might start having more), but I also can't be too patronizing to the love of my life.

While I'm still clearly trying to find this fine balance, I can look to designers like Meredith Heron, who collaborated with her husband on the design of their kitchen (see "Colour Me Bright," page 82). She seems to have it all figured out. Since her husband is a former caterer, she admits that "the kitchen is really his domain," so she treated him like a "client" to get the layout, functionality and look he wanted. The results, it goes without saying, are happily harmonious. Joanna Goodman, too, who, with her mom, Peggy Byron, owns the lovely Maine shabby chic summer house featured on page 74 ("Colour Me Pretty"), recognizes that mother knows best and doesn't sweat the small stuff (such as dining room chairs painted a different colour every time she arrives).

In the end, it's about listening. After all, a house is only truly a home when it reflects the entire family's personalities.

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

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two heads are better than one

Recently, Hibou Home contacted me on Twitter to tell me about their new wallpaper. For those of you who know me, anything equestrian is a must-have. When I showed it to my husband and mentioned that it was designed for a child's room, he said: "I don't see why you can't use it. The wallpaper in the master bathroom [featured in the September 2011 issue] has dancing acrobats on it!" Hmmm....

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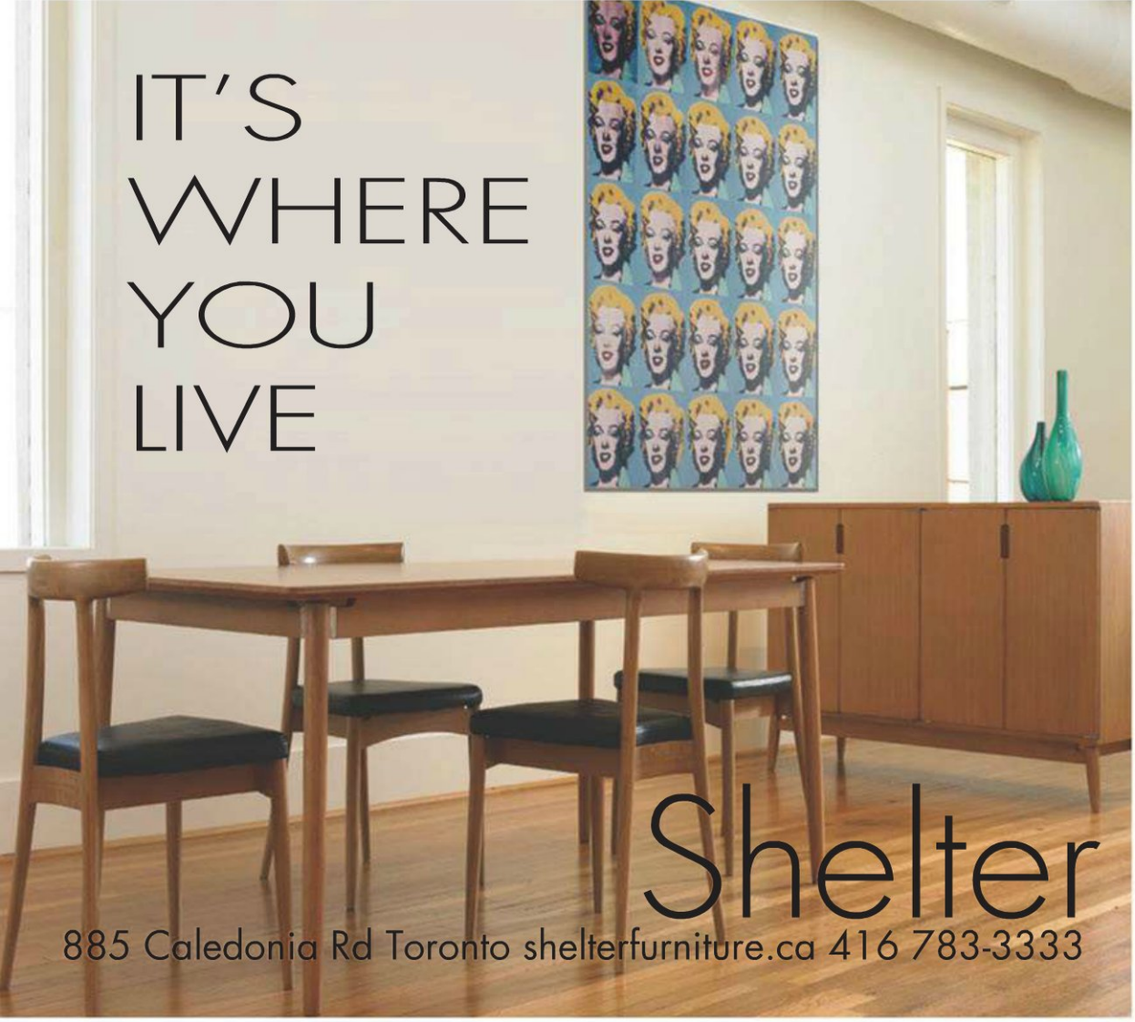

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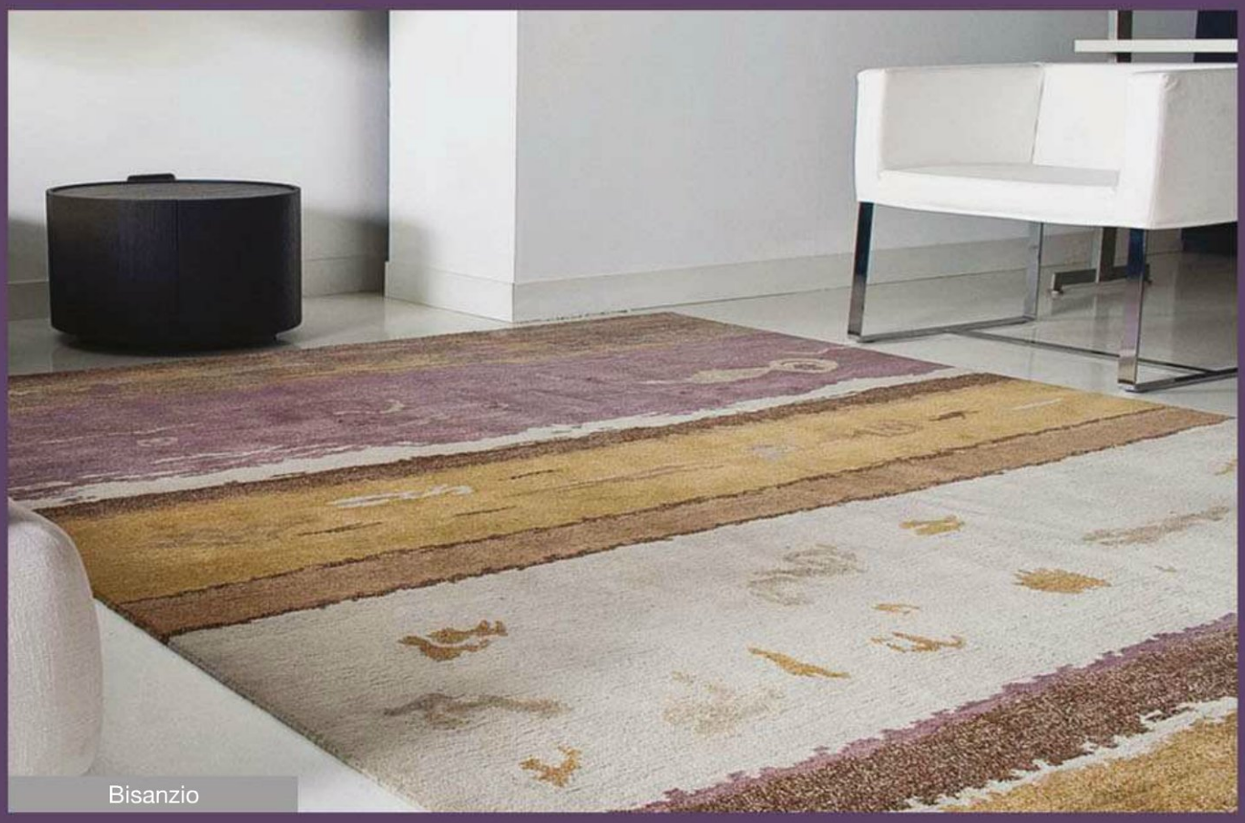
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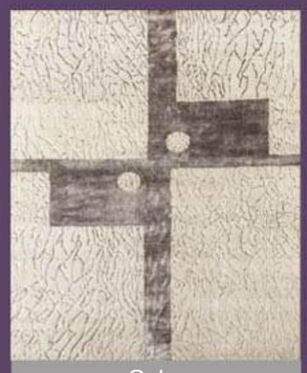
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SINGING THE BLUES

Just wanted to send you a quick note to say how much I enjoy your magazine. Whenever I take some quiet time for myself, I always grab an issue of *Style at Home* to look for inspiration for my own home. I was especially drawn to the "Welcome Change" article in your January 2012 issue, specifically the bedroom wall colour. I currently have several blue-grey shade samples on my wall, as I'm trying to find just the right one.

SHELLY MCCONNELL, KITCHENER, ON

FIRED **UP**

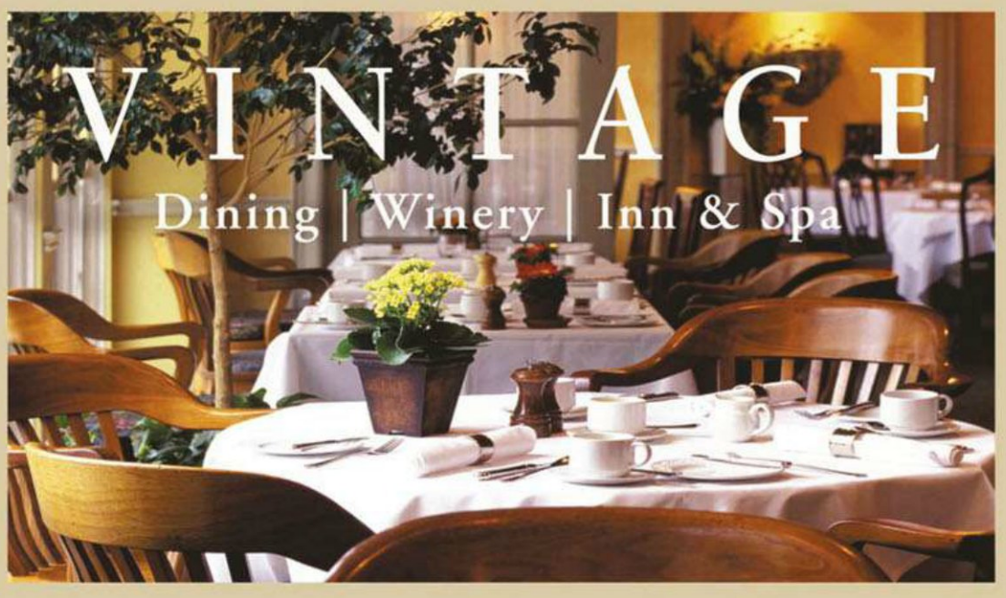
Thank you for your February 2012 issue – it's fabulous! I've been reading *Style at Home* for years and have gleaned much inspiration from the pages of the magazine. For a long time, I was debating how to finish off my basement fireplace and page 83 ("Geometry Rules") confirmed it! White grid panelling was the architectural detail the room needed and I couldn't love it more. Keep up the good work!

LAURA RAMSAY, PORT COQUITLAM, BC

BIGGER ***IS*** **BETTER**

I just received your March 2012 issue and I'm really impressed. Not only do I love the bigger and better size of your magazine, but I also love all the new content. There is so much to read and so many unbelievable pictures of gorgeous homes to look at. I cannot put it down. Thank you for a super magazine – you are the best!

LARA BARRINGTON, ROSEMÈRE, QC



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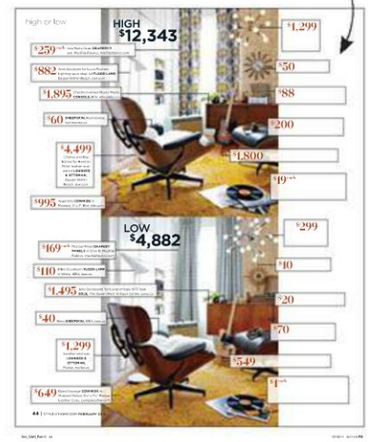
A GUESSING **GAME**

I've always enjoyed the High or Low column in your magazine. I often spend time staring at the two designs and trying to guess which is which. I'm always shocked to see how you can design two rooms to look so similar on such varying budgets. I'm especially enjoying the new format of the column in February's issue, where you can easily compare the prices of items. Keep it up!

ERIN BLACKMORE, GRANDE PRAIRIE, AB



S@H READERS TWEET

"I'm drooling over @erinmclaughlin1's new kitchen in the February issue of *Style at Home*. Dream kitchen!"
@YYCModernLiving

"Congrats to @atmosphereID for the spread in *Style at Home* this month! Looks fabulous! Kudos, gents!"
@hmhome

"Loving the new layout of *Style at Home* magazine. Great February issue! #pickupacopy"
@KristineCarrick

"Love that your February issue features *Downton Abbey* as the trend inspiration! #bestseriesever"
@thesweetestdigs

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we love to hear from you!

Email us at letters@styleathome.com or write to us at *Style at Home*, Letters from Home, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Suite 100, Toronto, ON, M2N 6S7.

Jasmine sets the stage for a sophisticated dining experience by featuring an extendable, grey tinted, tempered glass top suspended gracefully upon a simple, steel frame.
JASMINE | Extendable dining table
$279
BOSTON Dining chair $99
CHLOE Pendant $299
PLATE $29

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WHEN IT COMES TO HAIRCARE PRODUCTS, LESS IS MORE.

"I tell my clients the secret to achieving beautiful hair that lasts is to use products that don't contain sulfates, harsh salts or heavy waxes. These ingredients can cause your hair to become fragile, flat or dull. Without them, hair can become stronger, avoid weigh-down and maintain colour purity longer. If your hair is flat, coloured or damaged, a great step towards having beautiful, healthy-looking hair is to use a 100% sulfate-free haircare line such as Ever by L'Oréal Paris Hair Expertise."

Eric Del Monaco

Eric Del Monaco, Official Hair Artist and Colourist for L'Oréal Paris. Owner and Principal Stylist, Del Monaco Hair Studio, Toronto.

A KEY TO MAINTAINING HEALTHY-LOOKING HAIR.

"Getting and maintaining healthy hair is a must for dramatic runway styles. Intense styling practices such as curling, relaxing, straightening (such as Brazilian smoothing) and blow-drying use heat and products that can damage your hair. Damaged hair can leave the cuticle open, leaving the hair fiber vulnerable to external aggressions. This emphasizes the importance of maintaining the natural proteins of the hair by using a sulfate-free system such as Ever from L'Oréal Paris. All of the Ever products are free of harsh sulfates, are 100% vegan and contain natural botanicals to help maintain healthy-looking hair even after aggressive styling! They're specifically formulated to be gentle on overprocessed hair and provide hydration (EverCrème), strengthening (EverStrong), smoothing (EverSleek) and colour protection (EverPure)."

Because you're worth it.

L'ORÉAL PARIS

SHOPPING GUIDE

WHICH OF THESE EVER SYSTEMS IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

CARE FOR COLOURED HAIR: EVERPURE

EverPure provides optimum protection for coloured hair to reduce fading for 32 shampoos. Its formula contains a UV filter which helps to protect and condition hair for long-lasting colour purity. Enriched with rosemary botanical oil, it invigorates the senses. Available in Moisture and Volume shampoo and conditioner formulas.

New!

ULTIMATE HYDRATION FOR DRY HAIR: EVERCRÈME

EverCrème, L'Oréal's first moisture-lock system, provides the ultimate moisture for dry or very dry hair. Its triple-action conditioning formulas contain botanical camelina oil and natural omega-3 and 6, which leave hair luxuriously soft and shiny without weigh-down.

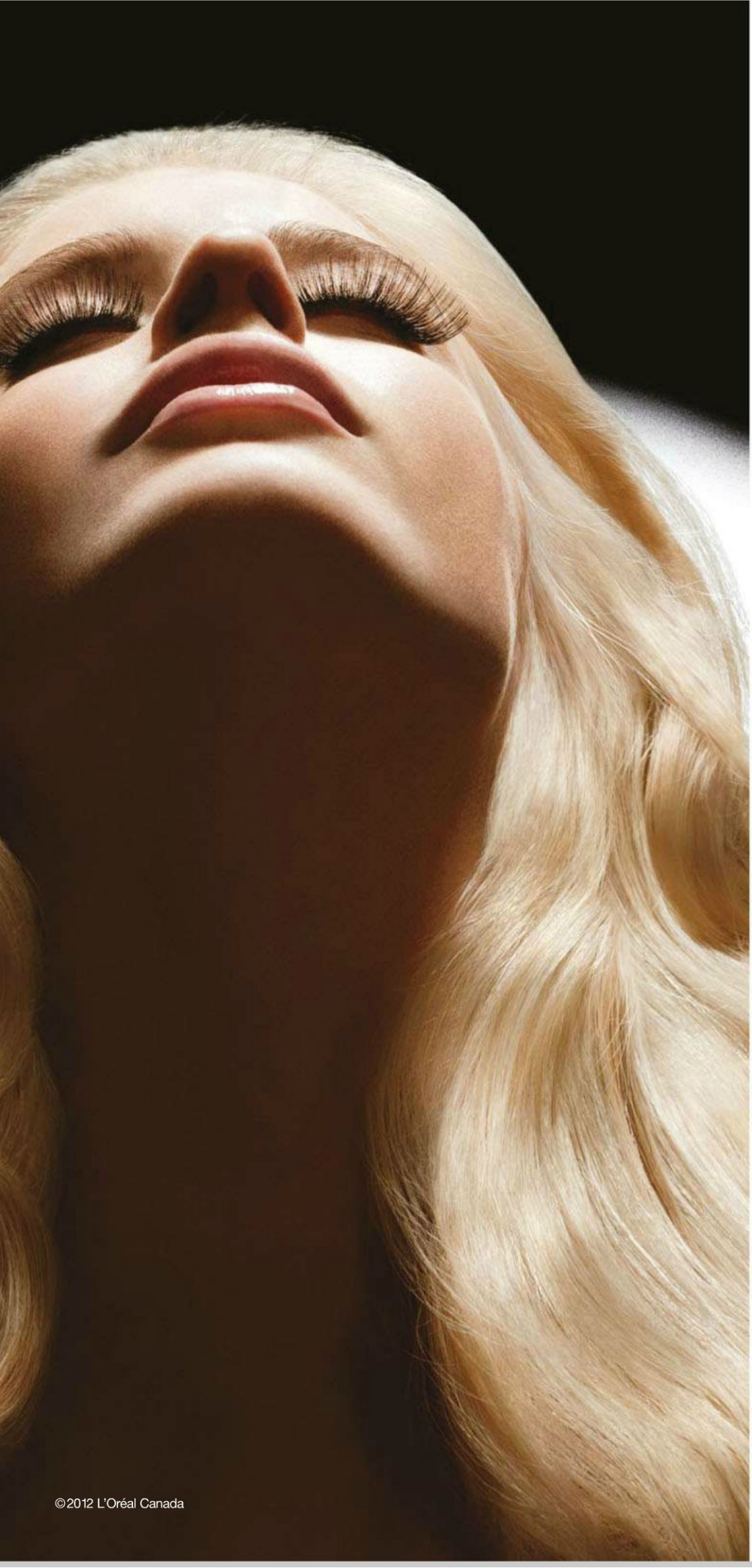
PERFECTLY SMOOTH HAIR: EVERSLEEK

EverSleek's haircare system guarantees 48-hour anti-frizz protection for frizzy, unruly hair. Enriched with sunflower oil extract, EverSleek nourishes and smoothes even the most sensitive strands, leaving hair manageable and shiny.

HAIR IN NEED OF REPAIR: EVERSTRONG

EverStrong is perfect for repairing frizzy, damaged hair. Its patented Bio-Ceramide Fortify System strengthens the hair fiber after just one use, helping it resist breakage. Natural aromatic properties of rosemary leaf oil and peppermint leaf extract in the shampoo and conditioner invigorate the senses.

Visit **lorealparis.ca** for more information or to find other inspiring tips from Eric Del Monaco.



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/Anti-fade formula protects and preserves colour for 32 washes /
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online this month

styleathome.com

10 COLOURFUL INTERIORS

styleathome.com/colourfulinteriors

decorate with every colour of the RAINBOW

styleathome.com/colourfuldecor

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styleathome.com/paintcolour

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This month, you could win a T-fal prize package, which includes T-fal's Aquaspeed iron and Optisteam steamer. Refresh your drapery, upholstery, linens and garments with this spring cleaning package! With non-stick technology, the Aquaspeed iron prevents delicate fabrics from sticking, while the Optisteam steamer removes odours and wrinkles with five steam settings.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, STACEY VAN BERKEL, DONNA GRIFFITH

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DATE WITH *style*

Don't miss *Style at Home* editors and designers on television and at these events.

Watch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on CBC's *Steven and Chris*. For air dates and times, check your local listings or go to cbc.ca/stevenandchris.

Editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin on set with Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman.

WE'RE ON TV!

Catch design editor **Jessica Waks** on Citytv's *CityLine* on Mar. 13. Check your local listings for showtimes or go to citytv.com/cityline.

WISH YOU **WERE HERE!**

Editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** gave a presentation on Valentine's Day decorating with designer Jennifer Brouwer at First Canadian Place on Feb. 6.

Design editor **Jessica Waks** attended a high tea with British style-maker and design icon William Yeoward at Toronto's Interior Design Show on Jan. 27.

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PRODUCER JESSICA WAKS

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LET THE sun shine IN!

HELPFUL HINT

APPLY DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE TO ALL THE EDGES OF THE PAPER FOR A SEAMLESS EFFECT.

For this issue's project of the month, managing editor Catherine Therrien makes quick art out of a basic blank canvas and a few squares of two-toned yellow patterned paper. Simply tape or glue the paper to the canvas and hang in a spot that needs a dose of vitamin D.

CANVAS, PAPER, DeSerres, deserres.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ANDREAS TRAUTTMANSDORFF; STYLING, CATHERINE THERRIEN

PONY UP

THIS WHIMSICAL WALLPAPER ADDS A GRAPHIC HIT OF PINK TO YOUR WALLS IN AN EQUESTRIAN MOTIF THAT'S SURE TO DELIGHT HORSE-MINDED GALS OF EVERY AGE.

Gymkhana HH00402 **WALLPAPER** in Sand/Coral Pink, £70 per roll, Hibou Home, hibouhome.com.

IT'S A MOD, MOD WORLD

Plush toss cushions covered in mod organic prints in warm shades of yellow, moss, plum and more will brighten up your home. Feeling bold? Choose the lumbar cushion to add a shock of turquoise to your favourite chair.

Malin Figur **CUSHION COVERS,** $9 each, turquoise
Malin Fransar **CUSHION,** $17, IKEA, ikea.ca.

ORANGE CRUSH

GEOMETRIC DETAILING, A POWDER-COATED FRAME AND EASY-TO-MANOEUVRE CASTERS MAKE THIS BAR CART A PERFECT STYLE SOLUTION FOR BOTH INDOORS AND OUT.

Worlds Away Hampton **BAR CART** in Orange, $1,150, 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com.

COLOUR THEORY

THIS PALETTE PROVES THAT CONTRASTING COLOURS REALLY DO WORK WELL TOGETHER!

Da Terra **TABLEWARE,** from $15, The Bay, thebay.com.

colour me mine

Made in Portugal exclusively for the Bay, Da Terra's painterly ceramic dishware adds a hit of Mediterranean joie de vivre to your tabletop, even on the dullest of days.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (VASES)

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rug in a box
MOROCCO
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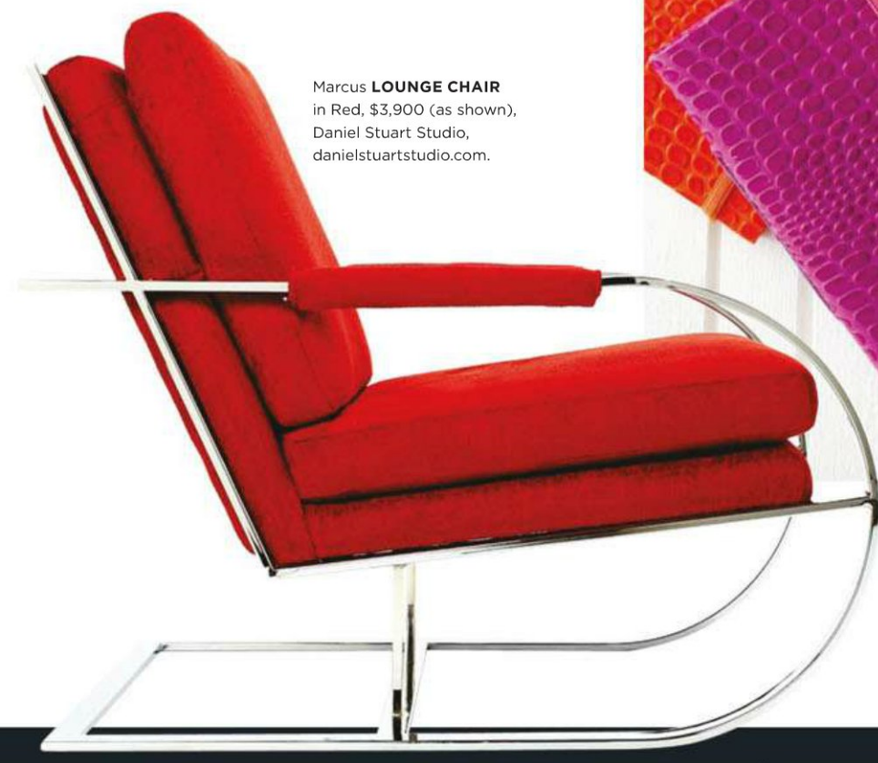
thrown for a curve

The sleek yet sensual polished nickel frame of the Canadian-made Marcus lounge chair is softened with upholstery available in a variety of colours and textures.



Marcus **LOUNGE CHAIR** in Red, $3,900 (as shown), Daniel Stuart Studio, danielstuartstudio.com.

CROCODILE ROCK

A RAINBOW OF CROC-EMBOSSED NOTEBOOKS MAKES JOTTING DOWN NOTES AND STAYING ORGANIZED A CINCH.

Crocodile **NOTEBOOKS,** $10 each, Two's Company, twoscompany.com.

BATHING BEAUTY

Interchangeable bold colours and the multiple configurations offered in Duravit's Darling New collection allow you to customize your bathroom storage needs with a sense of playful whimsy. Wood finishes and other neutral hues are available for the less extroverted among us.

Darling New **MOBILE STORAGE UNIT** with white body and spring front, $1,018, Duravit, duravit.us.

A SLIPPERY SLOPE

STRUCTURE IS LEFT TO THE DOGS WITH THIS UNCONVENTIONAL SIDEBOARD, WHICH FEATURES SLOPING SHELVES AND INTERIOR PANELS, OFFERING UNEQUAL CUSTOMIZABLE STORAGE OPTIONS IN AN EYE-CATCHING RED LACQUER FINISH.

Ligne Roset Lines **SIDEBOARD** by Peter Maly, from $4,672, Dwell Modern, dwellmodern.ca.

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HOT MESS
IT'S HARD TO RESIST THE PERFECTLY IMPERFECT FORM OF THIS DESIGN CLASSIC, AVAILABLE IN TONS OF COLOURS.

Revol Crumpled **ESPRESSO CUPS,** from $12 each, William Ashley, williamashley.com.

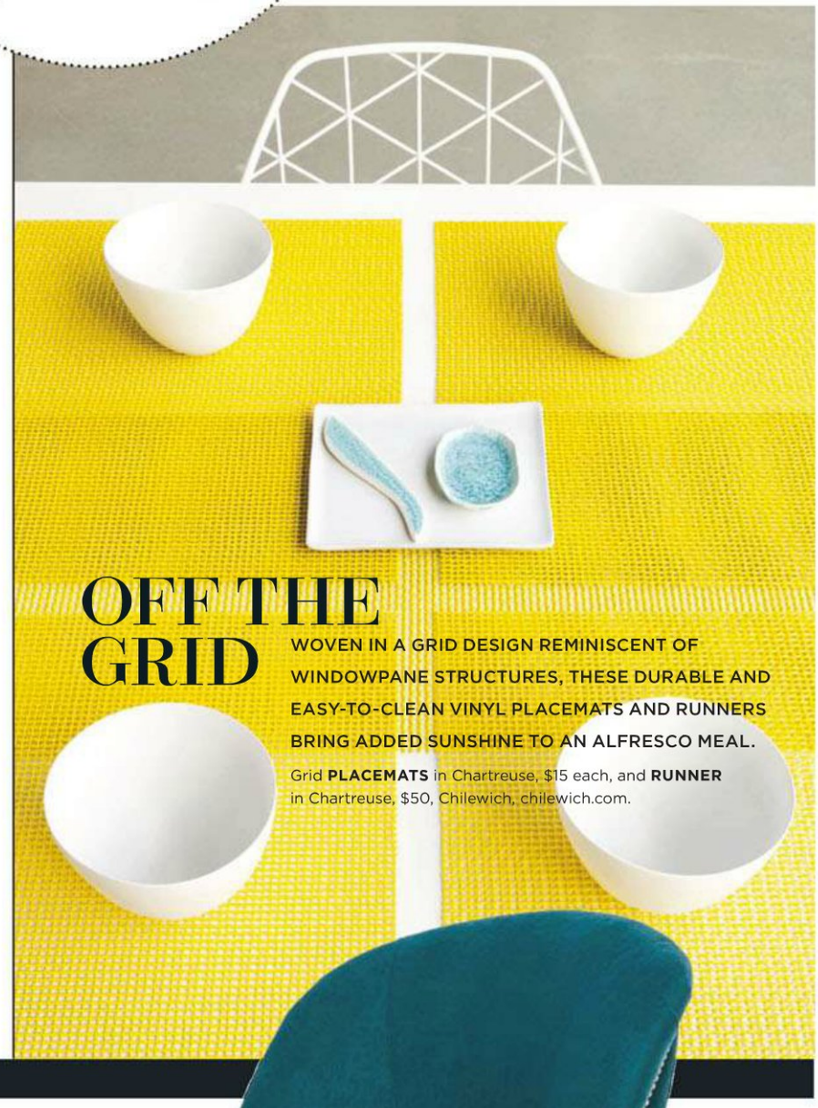
plastic makes perfect

Third-generation French company Revol reinterpreted a classic crumpled plastic cup into a durable, high-style porcelain version that comes in an array of bright colours, perfect for entertaining.

A TISKET, A TASKET

EASY, BREEZY WICKER IS GIVEN A NEW LEASE ON LIFE BY DESIGN DIRECTORS RICHARD LAMBERTSON AND JOHN TRUEX, WHO WOVE SIGNATURE TIFFANY BLUE-HUED LEATHER INTO THE PALMER BASKET HANDBAG BY TIFFANY & CO.

Palmer Basket **HANDBAG** with Tiffany Blue calf trim, $1,550, Tiffany & Co., tiffany.com.



OFF THE GRID

WOVEN IN A GRID DESIGN REMINISCENT OF WINDOWPANE STRUCTURES, THESE DURABLE AND EASY-TO-CLEAN VINYL PLACEMATS AND RUNNERS BRING ADDED SUNSHINE TO AN ALFRESCO MEAL.

Grid **PLACEMATS** in Chartreuse, $15 each, and **RUNNER** in Chartreuse, $50, Chilewich, chilewich.com.

CROWN JEWEL

Sloped arms, a rounded back and delicate klismos legs give this chair a graceful edge, but its rich teal upholstery and small nailhead detailing imbue it with jewellery-box status.

CobiStyle teal velour C2450 **CHAIR,** $792, Decor-Rest, decor-rest.com.

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1

OUR INSPIRATION

Clé de Peau Beauté's Luminizing Face Enhancer comes with a faceted design in shades of peach, pink, silver and gold, which blend to create a shimmery rose hue. The colour translates from beauty and fashion to decor. And who doesn't love a little glow?

2

3

THE **trend** IS

Rose gold

Delicate shades of rose go glam when gilded in a warm lustre. The trend evokes a romantic luxury like a flute of sparkling rosé or a piece of statement jewellery.

4

10

9

5

8

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6

1 Clé de Peau Beauté Luminizing **FACE ENHANCER,** $92, Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

2 Belle Epoque Cuvée Rosé **CHAMPAGNE,** from $175, Perrier-Jouët, perrierjouet.com.

3 Gemstone **KNOB,** $8 US, Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

4 Laura Kirar rose gold Caviar **PENDANT LIGHT,** $600, Arteriors Home, arteriorshome.com.

5 **PERFUME BOTTLE,** $45, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.

6 Seda France **CANDLE** in ceramic jar, $55, Putti Fine Furnishings, 416-972-7652.

7 John Robshaw Textiles Paisley **TOSS CUSHIONS,** $275 each, The Cross Decor & Design, thecrossdesign.com.

8 Gold Chronograph **WATCH,** $300, Michael Kors, michaelkors.com.

9 Terracotta Wedgwood **TEAPOT,** $1,995, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.

10 Tiffany 1837 Rubedo Padlock **CHARM,** $635, Tiffany & Co., tiffany.com.

PRODUCER, AMANDA ETTY; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PERFUME BOTTLE, CANDLE, TEAPOT)

JELL-Oh baby that's good.

Suggested serving. Mousse Snacks.

Oh, it's real good! You didn't think JELL-O could satisfy your craving now that you're a proper adult, did you? Well, think again. JELL-O Mousse Temptations are every bit as indulgent as any other dessert you've turned to, with 60 calories per 65g cup. We'd like to think that's pretty good.

Find them in the refrigerated section.

chocolate MINT ICEBOX creams

A decadently sweet treat to tempt the taste buds of adults and kids alike, and welcome the return of spring (at last!).

ALONG WITH glimpses of green through the melting snow and the cheery chirp of a brave bird returned from the south comes another harbinger of spring: a craving for lighter, cooler desserts than winter's warm puddings, crumbles and crisps.

In the spirit of taking advantage of spring's revitalizing energy, tie on an apron and bake these diminutive delights from scratch with ingredients that are probably already in your pantry. Flour, butter, cocoa and whipping cream are the basis for creating a sublime flavour sensation you won't be able to resist eating – or sharing, for that matter. Go ahead and indulge yourself, just a little, with these charming sweets that take you back to the time when milk and cookies cured all ills.

RECIPE DEVELOPMENT & FOOD STYLING, TARA BALLANTYNE; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

PRODUCER TARA BALLANTYNE | **TEXT** SUZANNE MOUTIS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JOE KIM

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PREP TIME 30 MINUTES

chocolate mint icebox creams

INGREDIENTS

MAKES 12 COOKIES

FOR CHOCOLATE WAFERS

- 1½ cups all-purpose flour
- ¾ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- ¼ tsp each: salt and baking soda
- 1 cup unsalted butter, slightly softened
- 3 tbsp whole milk
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract

FOR FROSTING

- ¼ cup butter, softened
- 3½ cups confectioner's sugar, sifted
- 1 tbsp peppermint extract
- 2 egg whites
- 2 tbsp water

FOR WHIPPED CREAM

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- ½ vanilla bean, seeds scraped out
- 1 tsp honey

1. TO MAKE THE WAFERS, combine the flour, cocoa powder, sugar, salt and baking soda in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse several times to thoroughly mix ingredients. Cut the butter into cubes and add to the mixer. Pulse to combine until the mixture becomes crumbly. In a small bowl, mix together the milk and vanilla. With the motor running, slowly pour the milk mixture into the processor until the cookie mixture forms a dough, clumping around the blade. Transfer the dough onto a cutting board and knead a few times to be sure all ingredients are blended completely. Form the dough into a log about 6" long and wrap in waxed paper. Refrigerate the dough until firm, at least 1 hour.

2. PREHEAT THE OVEN to 350°F and line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Slice the log of dough into ¼" rounds and lay them 4 centimetres apart on the baking sheet. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, rotating sheets halfway through baking time. Cool the cookies completely on baking sheets.

3. TO MAKE THE FROSTING, cream the butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer for 2 minutes. Add the remaining ingredients and mix on high speed until smooth and fluffy, about 5 to 10 minutes. If frosting is too stiff, beat in a few drops of water. Spoon into a large piping bag fitted with a plain tip.

4. FOR THE WHIPPED CREAM, beat the cream with the vanilla seeds and honey in a medium bowl with an electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Spoon the whipped cream into another piping bag fitted with a plain tip.

5. TO ASSEMBLE, ice half the wafers with peppermint frosting and half with whipped cream. Stack the topped biscuits four or five cookies high. Refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.

TIP Store wafers in an airtight container for up to two weeks.

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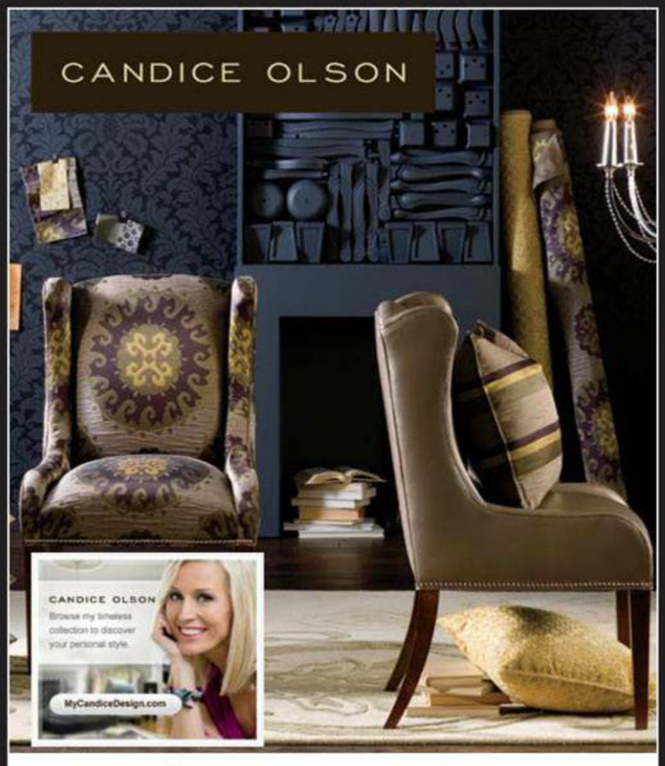

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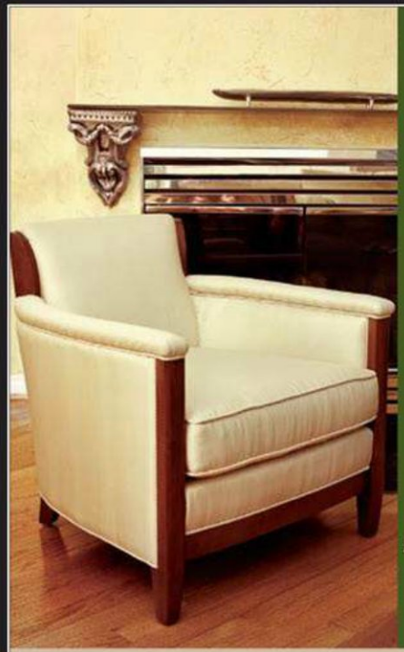

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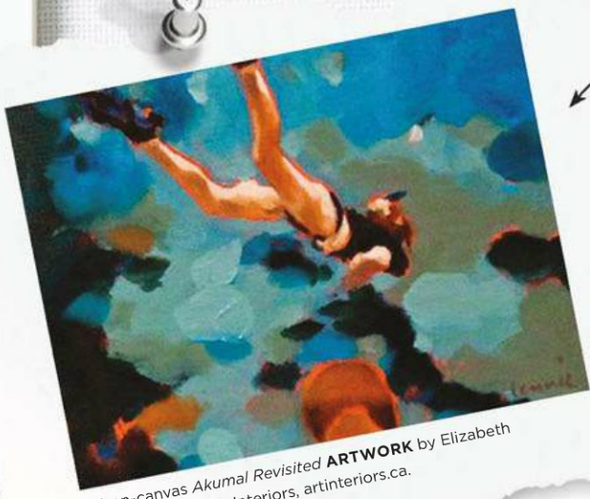
PEOPLE ALWAYS *ask us*

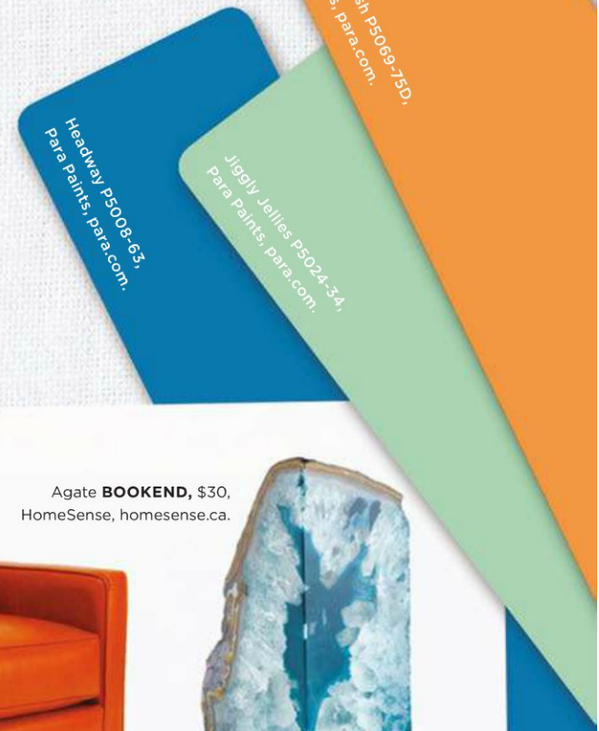
This issue, the stars of the TV show *Steven and Chris* tell you how to pick a fresh spring palette for your space.

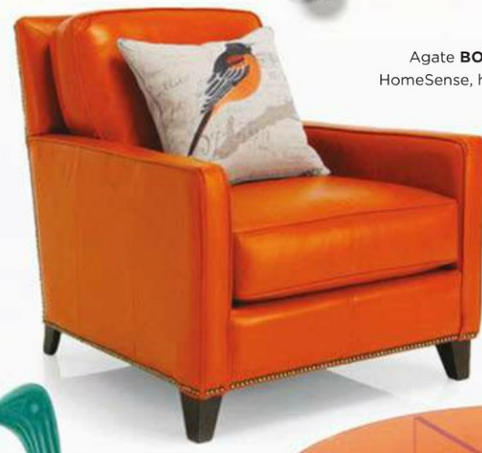


Oil-on-canvas *Akumal Revisited* **ARTWORK** by Elizabeth Lennie, 8" x 8", Art Interiors, artinteriors.ca.

starting point

Inspired by this stunning oil painting, the palette of cerulean blue, seafoam green and tangerine comes together to form a show-stopping combination. Introduce these colours into your space through everyday decor, such as furniture, accessories and paint.


Orange Crush P5069-75D, Para Paints, para.com.
Jiggly Jellies P5024-3A, Para Paints, para.com.
Headway P5008-6B, Para Paints, para.com.



Agate **BOOKEND,** $30, HomeSense, homesense.ca.

Zing Blue **TABLE LAMP,** $90, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

Large Jade Bird **BOWL,** $128 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

S&C leather **ARMCHAIR** with brass nail studs and espresso stained wooden legs, $1,249, Decor-Rest, decor-rest.com.

Glas Italia XXX **TABLE,** $2,960, Avenue Road, avenue-road.com.

Steven Sabados and **Chris Hyndman** are the hosts of the lifestyle show *Steven and Chris.* Watch them weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC. Catch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** monthly on the show as a guest expert. If you have a design dilemma, email Steven and Chris at askstevenandchris@cbc.ca.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (BACKGROUND, BOOKEND)

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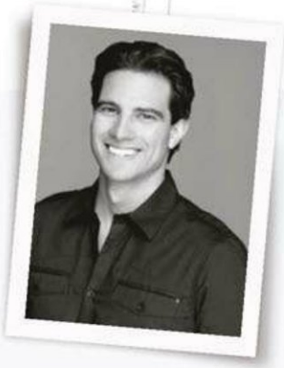


don't be floored

A survey by the National Wood Flooring Association asked real estate agents about the impact of hardwood floors on homebuyers. Of the realtors interviewed, 82 percent said that homes with hardwood floors sold faster and often for more money. Hardwoods are easier than ever to care for and are a smart investment in your biggest asset: your home. Here are some tips if you're planning on installing new hardwood or refinishing older floors. **TEXT** SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

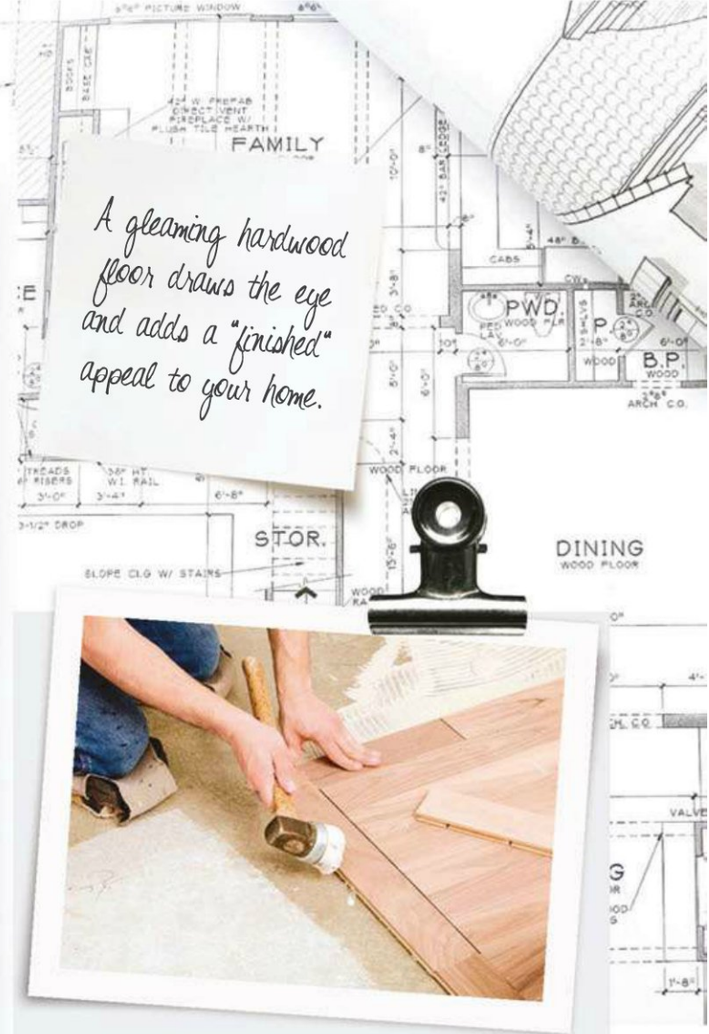
where to start?

Between unfinished plank, prefinished strip, engineered and hand-scraped, it's easy to get confused. You'll need to think about issues like humidity, the shape the existing subfloor is in, how level your floors are and your family's lifestyle before you pick what's best for you and your budget. If your TV room is in the basement and that's where you spend your time, you might go for an engineered option because it can be installed over concrete, and can handle humidity and expansion better than hardwood can. If you're looking to install hardwood on your main floor or upstairs in the bedrooms, prefinished strip or plank floors are the way to go to save the step and expense of staining unfinished wood.

green floors

Whenever possible, I try to use eco-friendly products, and, not surprisingly, the hardwood flooring industry has a ton of products to choose from. Look for the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) stamp of approval on hundreds of flooring options. The FSC manages sustainable forests where trees are replanted and the natural environment is carefully monitored. FSC-certified hardwoods can also apply toward LEED credits. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a rating system for the design, construction and operation of green buildings, homes and neighbourhoods.

Don't be fooled because something is sold as a "green" product. Bamboo floors might be made out of an amazing and renewable resource, but some manufacturers affix the layers of bamboo together with a glue that can emit formaldehyde. Do your research, ask the right questions and use your best judgement.



cost it out

So you found a great deal and the hardwood floor you want is only $3.79 per square foot. Why, then, does it end up costing $10+ per square foot when everything is factored in? There are a lot of variables than can really impact the cost of installing a hardwood floor. Basic installation runs anywhere from $3 to $6 per square foot, but that's just the beginning, as there are other factors to consider, too. Take a floating floor, for instance. Most floating floors are installed over an underlayment to help level the floor and provide some cushion underfoot. Or, perhaps you've chosen a hardwood that is nailed or glued down. The installer may add a charge for the nails and glue, not to mention the additional labour of installing a subfloor. Add in the expense of replacing or refinishing the baseboards and trim and the price rises quickly.

Installing any type of flooring is a huge job. Don't make it harder on yourself by having to move your furniture out of your house and back in again so the installers can do their job. Whenever possible, choose to redo your floors before you move in, and leave enough time to lay the floors and stain them, if necessary. Before you invest in hardwood for your home, head to your closet and rip up a corner of that old, stained carpet. If luck is on your side, you might have original hardwood underneath just waiting to be restored to its original condition.

Scott McGillivray is the host of HGTV's *Income Property*. Catch back-to-back episodes Thursdays at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on HGTV.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM LEYES, COURTESY OF HGTV CANADA (PORTRAIT), ISTOCKPHOTO

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high OR low...

can you tell the difference?

PRODUCER ANDREA MCCRINDLE
TEXT SARA CATION
PHOTOGRAPHY MICHEL DUBE

Whether the furniture is black or white, the overall effect is the same. So fresh and so clean, this spring dining room leaps into the season with either a warm or cool price tag, proving that colour can indeed be just as versatile as our budget *and* our spring wardrobe!

HIGH $15,547

$1,799 Stonegate Designs Nova Collection black corduroy **PENDANT LIGHT,** 30", Prima Lighting, primalighting.ca.

$1,875 Jeff Nimeh white porcelain **VESSEL,** Hollace Cluny, hollacecluny.ca.

$525 Caleb Siemon green glass Happy **CYLINDER,** Hollace Cluny, hollacecluny.ca.

$525 Caleb Siemon green glass Happy **BOWL,** Hollace Cluny, hollacecluny.ca.

$1,699 Glass-top Spazio **DINING TABLE** with brushed-steel legs, Shelter Furniture, shelterfurniture.ca.

$1,116 Eiffel **DINING CHAIRS** in Black Leatherette, $279 each, Shelter Furniture, shelterfurniture.ca.

$350 Dupioni silk **DRAPERY PANELS** with soft-fall thermal sunblock lining, 54" x 96", $175 each, Drapery King Toronto, draperytoronto.com.

$995 *Hua Shan* **PHOTOGRAPH** by Yann Layma, Elte, elte.com.

$575 Jeff Nimeh black ceramic **VESSEL,** Hollace Cluny, hollacecluny.ca.

$195 Murano glass **BOWL,** Absolutely, absolutelyinc.com.

$259 Reclaimed hammered-metal **BOWL,** L'Atelier, 416-966-0200.

$5,634 Warren Platner **LOUNGE CHAIR** in Harvest, Knoll, knoll.com.

LOW $2,839

$600 Troy Lighting Saporro F2618 **PENDANT LIGHT,** Click Lighting & Home, clicklightingandhome.com.

$10 Mouth-blown glass Salong **VASE** in White, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$30 Green glass **VASE** (large), HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$15 Green glass **VASE** (small), HomeSense, homesense.ca.

$199 Torsby **DINING TABLE** in Black/Brown Lacquer with chrome-plated legs, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$516 Molded-plastic Eiffel **DINING CHAIRS,** $129 each, Modern Furniture Knockoff, modernfurnitureknockoff.com.

$120 Lyra Collection **DRAPERY PANELS** in Lichen, 54" x 84", $60 each, Bouclair Home, bouclairhome.com.

$179 Canvas Premiär *Crescendo of Light* **POSTER** by Bill Philip, IKEA, ikea.ca.

$10 Black hammered-aluminum Angenäm **VASE,** IKEA, ikea.ca.

$140 Gregor Herman two-toned bubble-glass **BOWL,** Hollace Cluny, hollacecluny.ca.

$20 GlucksteinHome white ceramic Celeste **PLATTER,** Home Outfitters, homeoutfitters.com.

$999 Black wool Platner-style **LOUNGE CHAIR,** Modern Furniture Knockoff, modernfurnitureknockoff.com.

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TAKING THE FLOOR

THOUGH A FINISH LIKE THIS LOOKS HARD TO EFFECT, IT'S NOT! THE TRICK IS TO TAKE YOUR TIME, ENSURING THAT THERE ARE NO MISSTEPS EN ROUTE TO YOUR NEW FLOOR.

1 Sand, vacuum and clean your surface area.

2 Paint the base colour (in this case, white) on the floor and let it dry overnight.

3 Map out your plan on paper, using exact measurements drawn to scale. Carefully measure and mark concentric square bands on the floor.

4 Apply painters' tape to the outside edges of the bands you intend to colour and paint the inner band (lighter green) first and then the outer band (darker green) in a carefully executed thin coat; let dry.

5 Repeat until you're satisfied with the finish on the floor (typically two or three coats). Let dry and apply a coat of sealer to the entire area.

Yellow Finch 2024-4, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

Spring Moss 2027-20 Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

introducing an icon

He designed some of mid-century America's infamous corporate interiors, from New York City's MetLife building to the Windows on the World restaurant at the World Trade Center, and worked with luminaries like Eero Saarinen and I.M. Pei, but Warren Platner (1919–2006) is doubtless best known for his collection for Knoll, introduced in 1966. Defined by its plush oversized seat on a nest of seemingly thread-thin wire, Platner's lounge chair pushed the Mid-Century Modern world one step closer to a chair without legs.

Warren Platner **LOUNGE CHAIR** in Harvest, $5,634, Knoll, knoll.com.

paint it forward

Pair outgoing, saturated shades with their demure, pale counterparts to create a harmonious duet that sings in colourful style on the floor. If green isn't your thing, try one of these **PAINT** pairs for a similar effect.

Valspar Dark Palomino 2011-2, Lowe's, lowes.ca; Orange Poppy 124-7, PPG Pittsburgh Paints, ppgpitts-burghpaints.com.

Blackberry Wine 670F-7, Behr, behr.com; Studio Mauve SW0062, Sherwin-Williams, sherwin-williams.com.

Beauti-Tone Grey Matter 6L3-7, Home Hardware, homehardware.ca; Coventry Gray HC 169, Benjamin Moore, benjaminmoore.ca.

Black hammered-aluminum Angenäm **VASE,** $10, IKEA, ikea.ca; purple **VASE,** $13, HomeSense, homesense.ca; Torre & Tagus carved-wood Costa **BOWL,** $50, Boo Boo & Lefty, boobooandlefty.com.

THE RULE OF 3

TO THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT THREE'S A CROWD, THE DECOR WORLD SAYS "GET OUTTA TOWN!" IN THREES, THINGS STAND PROUD. THEY LOOK COHESIVE AND COLLECTED, CREATING A VIGNETTE MEANT TO DRAW A MOMENT OF APPRECIATION FROM PASSERSBY. ADD DEPTH BY LAYERING ITEMS (SHORT IN FRONT) AND ENGAGE THE EYES WITH VARIOUS MATERIALS, SHAPES, SIZES, TEXTURES AND COLOURS. SEE? A SMALL, ATTENTION-GRABBING GROUPING LIKE THIS IS AS EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE!

high-low meter

Reinterpreted many times over, the original moulded-plastic **sidechair** was introduced by Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller in 1948 and became an instant icon for its cradling contours, smooth waterfall edges and intricate "Eiffel" base.

highest ▒▒▒

setting PRETTY

By swapping just a few accessories, contributing design editor Christine Hanlon takes a modern approach to the classic spring table setting and transforms it for three different occasions. If you want to be the host with the most this season, check out her no-fail formula for creating the perfect spring settings.

PRODUCER CHRISTINE HANLON | **TEXT** LAUREN FLANAGAN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RYAN BROOK

WHY THIS WORKS

Spring table settings should look elegant but feel casual, so start with a blank canvas (white tablecloth, white napkins and simple china) and add personality with accessories. Choose your two main colours, then incorporate an accent colour through embellishments that tie in with other elements in the room. Finish with a unique centrepiece for a fresh tablescape.

CHAIRS, Absolutely, absolutelyinc.com; Jaisamand **WALLPAPER** in Black and White, Graham & Brown, grahambrown.ca; silver-plated Bella **FLATWARE,** Classic Hotel **TABLECLOTH & NAPKINS,** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca.

Nº1

LUNCH IS SERVED

A refreshing palette of kelly green and white sets the scene for this modern yet whimsical luncheon table. Subtle touches, such as the tableware's green foliage motif and the black polka-dot ribbon wrapped around the napkins, combined with the sparkle and shine of dotted stemware and a quirky centrepiece keep the setting lighthearted and fun.

Kate Spade New York Gardner Street **DINNERWARE** and Larabee Dot **GLASSES,** Lenox, lenox.com; **RIBBON,** Mokuba, 416-504-5358.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

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TEA TIME
Afternoon tea is traditionally daintier than lunch, so your table setting should follow suit. Replace dinner plates with salad or dessert plates and switch the bold black accents for softer accessories. Pink placemats and ribbons mingle fluidly with the playful bird-cage centrepiece.

BIRDCAGE, PLACEMATS, Putti Fine Furnishings, 416-972-7652.

"PLACE CARDS MAY BE A SMALL DETAIL, BUT THEY ADD A NICE PERSONAL TOUCH TO YOUR TABLE SETTING, MAKING YOUR GUESTS FEEL SPECIAL."

CHRISTINE HANLON, CONTRIBUTING DESIGN EDITOR

When setting a table, the most important thing is to tailor the palette and the accessories to the occasion. With just one set of simple dishes, you can take your table from a casual lunch to a sophisticated afternoon tea to swanky happy hour cocktails.

COCKTAIL HOUR
The subtle shimmer of silver contrasted with black creates a more refined look for afternoon cocktails. Etched champagne flutes reflect light and combine nicely with silver chargers. Fanciful centrepieces are replaced with sophisticated lanterns, while green chinoiserie paper adds a quirky graphic element.

Borrby **LANTERNS,** IKEA, ikea.ca; chinoiserie **PAPER,** Boo Boo & Lefty, boobooandlefty.com; floral **TEA LIGHTS,** Putti Fine Furnishings, 416-972-7652; silver-plated Hotel **CHARGERS,** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.ca.

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DESIGN LESSONS

1. For impact, hang colourful lanterns above the table at various heights.

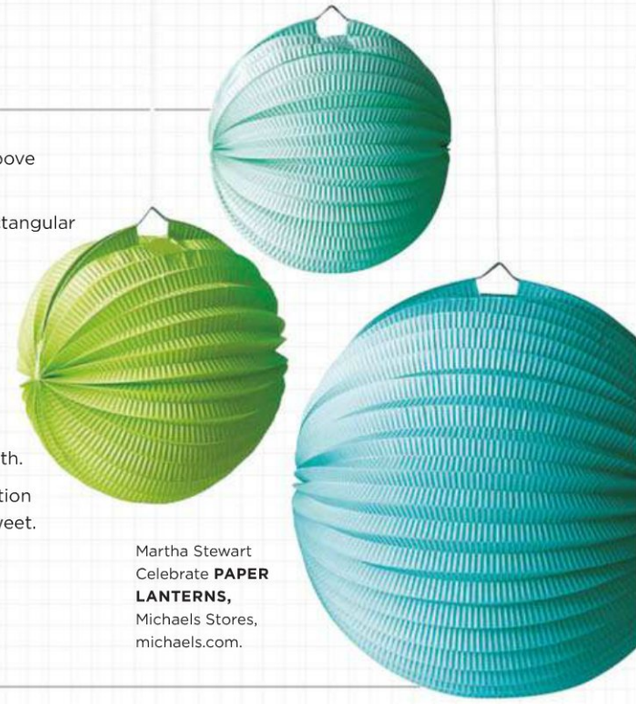
2. Choose a round table instead of a rectangular one – it's wonderful for conversation!

3. Candlelight is a necessity, whether you're indoors or out. Be prepared for any entertaining occasion by stocking white or cream candles in various shapes and sizes.

4. Decorative paper (like gift wrap) is a chic and simple alternative to a tablecloth.

5. Just a touch of black adds sophistication and keeps things from becoming too sweet.

6. Remember, you don't need a garden: You can easily capture the feeling of an alfresco-style garden party indoors or on a rooftop, balcony or patio.



Martha Stewart Celebrate **PAPER LANTERNS,** Michaels Stores, michaels.com.

get the look

Wooster & Prince **GIFT WRAP,** Paper E. Clips, papereclips.com.

Embroidered **LINENS,** Putti Fine Furnishings, 416-972-7652.

Kate Spade New York Gardner Street **DINNERWARE,** Lenox, lenox.com.

Pagoda **LANTERN,** 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com.

decor recipe for the perfect spring setting

1. Crisp white table linens

2. Classic white or floral-printed china

3. Fresh blooms or greenery

4. Candlelight

5. Vintage or whimsical accents, such as birdcages or animal figurines

6. Dressy details, such as ribbon and decorative paper

7. A little sparkle

THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE

This style is a combination of pretty and preppy that's personified by design icons like Martha Stewart, Kate Spade and Lilly Pulitzer. **Here are the essentials:**

A HIGH-CONTRAST PALETTE
Black and white, plus one or two accents, such as kelly green, tangerine or coral.

STATEMENT PRINTS
Lively patterns, such as florals, chunky stripes or geometrics.

A CHEEKY FLOURISH
Something unexpected, such as a flock of paper lanterns, paper drink umbrellas or a scattering of flower tea lights.

GLOSSARY

alfresco • *adv. & adj.* in the open air. Usually in reference to eating outside.

bone china • *n.* developed by English potter Josiah Spode. Fine china made of clay mixed with bone ash, which gives it its translucence, strength and chip resistance.

Chiavari Chair • *n.* named for the Italian coastal town where the design by craftsman Giuseppe Gaetano Descalzi originated in 1807. The chair is a staple in special-event seating, from weddings to award shows like the Golden Globes. Available in a variety of materials and finishes (shown below in Lucite).

Chippendale • *adj.* **1** (of furniture) designed or made by English cabinetmaker Thomas Chippendale (1718–79). **2** In the ornate style of Chippendale's furniture, characterized by curved legs, Chinese or Gothic motifs and carvings.

topiary • *adj.* horticultural practice concerned with or formed by clipping foliage into ornamental or animal forms. *n.* (pl. –ies) **1** topiary art. **2** a piece or an example of topiary work.

CHIAVARI CHAIR, Putti Fine Furnishings, 416-972-7652.

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SC Johnson
A Family Company

the art of darkness

TEXT LAURA DECARUFEL | **PHOTOGRAPHY** KIM CHRISTIE

Dripping with Old Hollywood glamour, the owner of this Kelowna, B.C., home delivers drama in befitting black and white. In 15 questions, she shares her Oscar-worthy approach.

Louis Vuitton
Art, Fashion and Architecture
THE WORLD IN VOGUE PEOPLE, PARTIES, PLACES
VOGUE LIVING HOUSES, GARDENS, PEOPLE

"I think books should be displayed," says homeowner Tracey Wikenheiser. "I like them stacked, with things around them and on them. I've seen some designers stack them to the ceiling, and I think it's fabulous!"

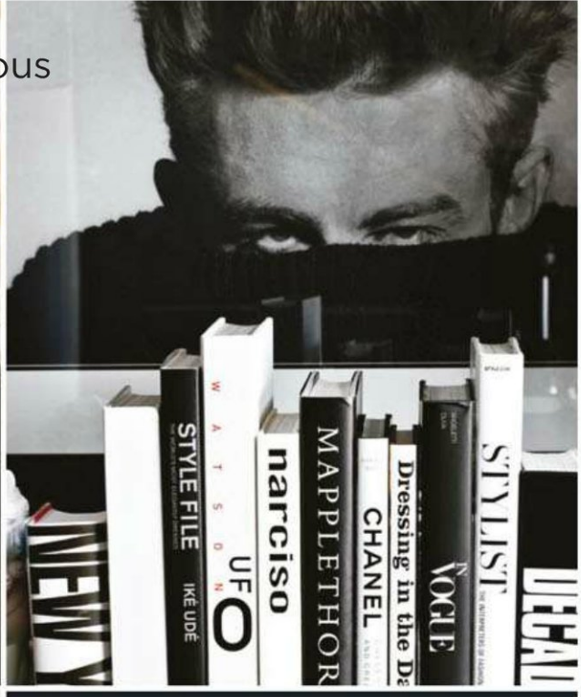
Winged **STATUE,** custom **CHAIR,** Worlds Away **SIDE TABLE,** Silvana **TOSS CUSHION,** La Bonne Vie.

The great room may be a tribute to Old Hollywood (down to the framed photograph of James Dean), but the bold blend of pattern and colour creates a sleek modernist edge that's ready for its close-up. "They were so naughty, but they could get away with it," says Tracey of the era's icons.

Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen Chantilly **WALLPAPER** in Noir and Black, Moooi **LIGHT FIXTURE,** custom **DRAPERY,** foo dog **STATUES,** Shine by S.H.O. **CABINET,** Patagonia Trading Co. **SOFA,** bespoke **CHAIRS,** custom black **TOSS CUSHIONS,** La Bonne Vie; black and white **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Trina Turk.

If you could only live with one colour, what would it be?

White – I love its soft and calm quality. It's the perfect canvas for all other textures and colour.



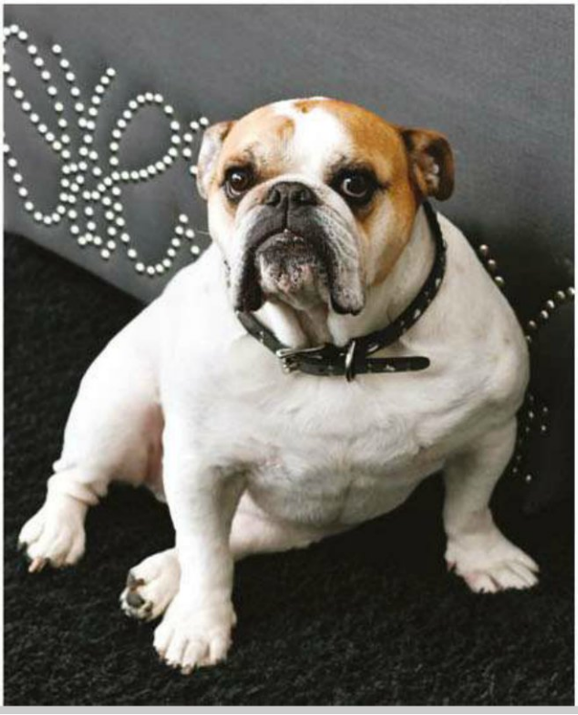
ABOVE & LEFT Of her stylish library, Tracey explains, "I believe fashion goes hand in hand with design." Bonus? Arranging books of varying size and typography offers an inventive way to experiment with contrast.

TOP LEFT Hard meets soft in this eclectic accessory pairing over the fireplace, as the clean lines of the sculpture showcase the exquisite feathers of the African juju headdress.

BOTTOM LEFT The fresh roses' delicate curves offset the sharp, detailed definition of the crane sculpture. The result is romanticism infused with a modern spirit.

Crane **SCULPTURE,** Roost.

BELOW Taking a pouty cue from moody but handsome James Dean, Tracey's beloved French bulldog, Roxie, poses for her glamour shot.



For Tracey Wikenheiser, a tuxedo was the spark. When she imagined her dream home, she pictured that timeless pairing of a black jacket with a white shirt – sharp and seductive, crisp and classic. "I wanted that sexy Old Hollywood vibe," explains the Kelowna-based designer and owner of decor and clothing shop La Bonne Vie. But since her household isn't, in practice, home to swinging star-studded soirees, but instead a big family, including Tracey, her husband, two kids, three dogs and a cat, functionality was also key. "Everyone needed to be able to roam freely, with no roped-off rooms or designs vacuumed into the carpet," she says with a laugh.

The polished result – which Tracey dubs "Hollywood Regency meets Art Deco" – took five years to achieve. The design process started after Tracey opened her shop in 2005 (she was inspired by "so many gorgeous decor finds"), but it wasn't until 2009 that she kicked her home's design into high gear. To raise money for an orphanage in Haiti, Tracey launched a tour of local designers' homes – and her own was on the list. "That lit the fire I needed to get it done," she says.

As a child, Tracey would get distracted playing with Barbies because she was always focused on decorating the dollhouse. Today, it's that attention to detail that ensures her own home is a sophisticated blend of personality and refined glamour. Still, it's family that rules. "I want our kids to grow up in a home that's beautiful," she says, "but that's above all a home."

The “softer” area of the house is flooded with light, courtesy of floor-to-ceiling windows and bright touches like the shaggy white rug. “To create a sense of cohesion, the pieces all need to speak to each other,” says Tracey.

Arteriors Home **TABLE LAMPS, PENDANT LIGHT,** Barbara Barry for Baker Furniture **DINING TABLE,** Global Views **DINING CHAIRS,** custom **DRAPERY,** Fornasetti **PLATES,** Patagonia Trading Co. **CABINETS,** Chandra **RUG,** La Bonne Vie.

What’s your favourite colour combination?

After black and white, I use grey and orange a lot, especially if it’s for a client with a masculine aesthetic. But I tend to stick to neutral palettes and then add hits of colour in a rug, cushion or a piece of artwork.

What was the biggest challenge of this design?
We're a young family, with pets and playdates. I didn't want a museum, but I did want it to be refined – like it could be ready for a party at a moment's notice.

What appeals to you about the Old Hollywood look?
All the old vices just seemed so glamorous. You'd roll up in your sleek car with your big hairdo and you were simply fabulous! I also really love bar carts.

You've created two distinct looks: one mostly white, the other mostly black. How did you decide which colours to use in each room?
We do most of our living on one side of the house: the kitchen, dining room, eating area and the family room. I wanted those spaces to be a little lighter and softer, because they're for day-to-day use. The front room has a moodier aesthetic for evening escapes.

Why black and white?
Black and white is calming, classic and tailored – and I love the contrast. It's also less of a colour commitment. If I feel like some colour, I can easily add or take it away.

Which colours are you most likely to add?
I love kelly green, yellow and deep sapphire blue.

What's your go-to neutral?

White! People think that white is safe or bland, but I don't agree. It's a blank canvas, a perfect starting-off point. When everything else is added to it, it just pops.

You play with that effect in your all-white bathroom with the dramatic black chair.
I wanted the bathroom to be spa-like and relaxing. The grain of the Carrara marble adds softness, but the Moooi Smoke chair adds an unexpected touch.

You use wallpaper a lot too – why is that?
In the old days, it would take four years to get wallpaper on and strip it all off. I remember my mom had wallpaper with loaves of bread, apples and grapes – we've come a long way! Having wallpaper, to me, is a bit like having art. But generally I reserve it for rooms that require a lot of drama like the dining room.

Any tips for using a black and white palette?
With black and white decor, you need texture – otherwise the room can fall flat. Texture softens and adds elements of interest to the room.

What's your favourite way to mix patterns?
I mix different sizes of graphics. If I have a big graphic on the rug, I choose something smaller for the chairs. It's key to having something look unique. You don't want everything to totally match – you want it to look like it came together naturally.

How did you choose your eclectic mix of accessories?
I don't want to fill a space for the sake of filling it, so I take time to find things that speak to me. Whether I'm on buying trips or on holiday, I always make sure that I have enough room in my suitcase to justify bringing stuff home. It's a job hazard!

What's your top shopping destination for design?
New York City has my heart. I always come back revitalized, with new inspiration, ideas and energy.

What's your advice for living with colour?

If you love colour, go to town, but if colour scares you a bit, stick with a neutral palette and add colour with your accessories – buy small throws and toss cushions, maybe even upholster a footstool or an old chair. If you love the result, try something a little bigger.

ABOVE A wall of black and white family photos acts as a focal point in the family room. Tracey's photographer sister snapped most of them, but the photos of Pakistan were taken by her grandfather during his air force tenure. "I want to be surrounded by things that are precious to me," says Tracey.

Phyllis Morris Trousdale **WALLPAPER** in Pearlescent on White, custom **TOSS CUSHIONS,** Global Views sunburst **MIRROR,** Shine by S.H.O. **SOFAS,** Lazy Susan glass **CANDLESTICKS,** Oly **COFFEE TABLE,** La Bonne Vie; **PHOTOGRAPHS,** Lesley Ord Photography.

RIGHT On the accessory front, it's all about playing with size, from coffee-table books to a magnifying glass to clear candlesticks.

For more black and white accessories to make a bold statement, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/BLACKANDWHITE.**

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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*massage helps reduce excess under eye fluid.

P&G beauty&grooming

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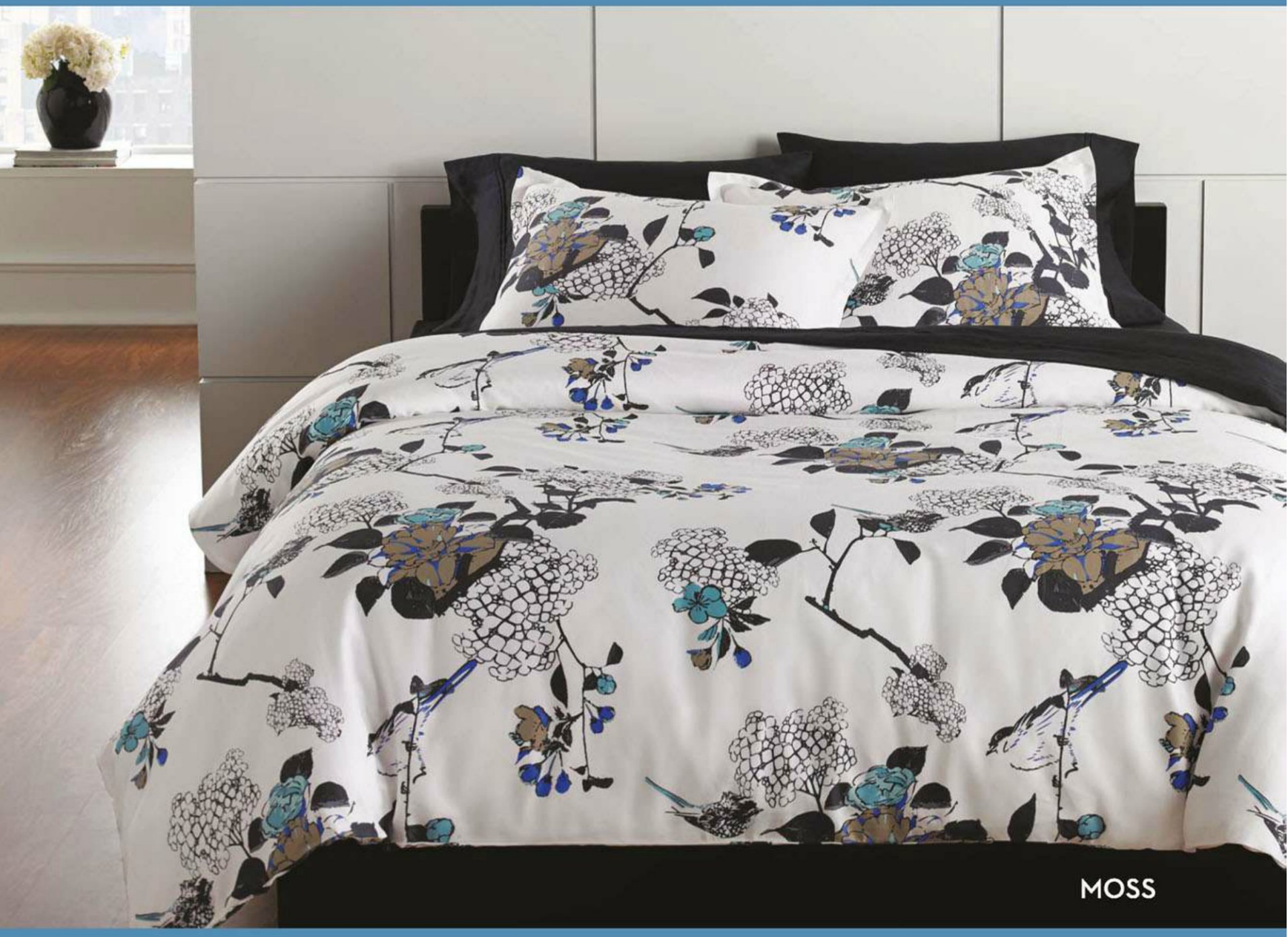

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APRIL 2012

colour at home

82 bright

74 pretty

88 fresh

96 fun

102 inspiration

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (BACKGROUND); CURVY PAINTABLE WALLPAPER, GRAHAM & BROWN, GRAHAMBROWN.CA

WE LOVE COLOUR!
Thibaut Historic Damask **WALLPAPER** in Blue, Crown Wallpaper & Fabrics.

Large-scale wallpaper in the entryway has a gentle palette that bespeaks the Maine seashore. White-painted antiques set the tone for the easygoing rooms within. A striped runner accentuates the length of the hallway and leads visitors to the fun.

RUNNER, Dash & Albert Rug Company; **CHANDELIERS,** Au Lit Fine Linens.

OPPOSITE A painted antique chair in the hallway has swirls and curls, alluding to the wallpaper behind it.

Toronto shop owners Joanna Goodman and mom Peggy Byron create a relaxed holiday getaway in a Maine heritage house with their signature painted cottage style.

colour me *pretty*

TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY VAN BERKEL

What's your go-to neutral?

White. I love the way white enhances every colour that you put against it. I can't think of a colour that doesn't look good against a white backdrop.

"One day, I left the house and these chairs were white; when I got back, they were turquoise. That's what happens when my mom is around," says homeowner Joanna Goodman with a laugh.

CHANDELIER, Au Lit Fine Linens.

"There was something about the frogs," says Joanna Goodman, reflecting on the reasons for choosing this house. "Yes, it's a classic New England house with all the pretty details that you'd expect, but what really got to me was the frog pond. My daughter, Jessie, was two years old at the time. She wandered over to the pond in the back, which had a little bench. As I watched her, I had such a strong sense of this place as a happy one." This is basically what Joanna told her husband, Miguel Cardinal, when she called to tell him that she and her mother, Peggy Byron, had purchased it. "We went to the beach and came back with a house!" Joanna says with a laugh. "It wasn't intentional, but we've never looked back."

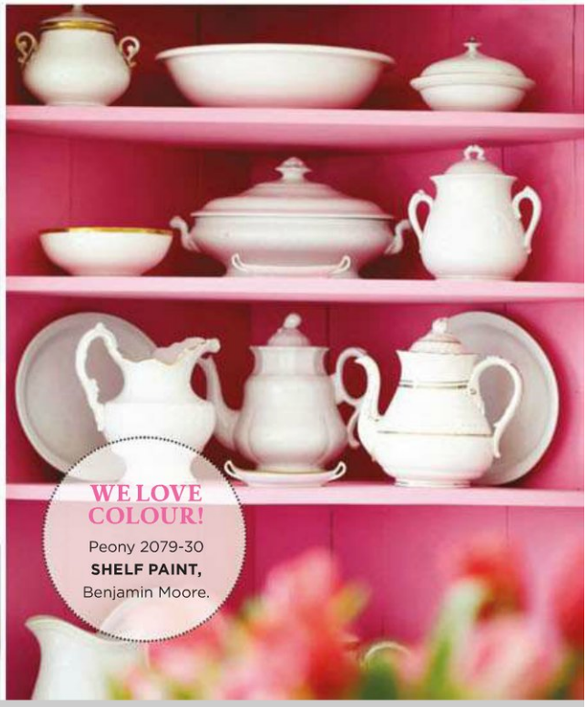
That was nearly five years ago and, since then, summers and Christmases have unfolded in the airy, sea-glass-coloured rooms of the rambling six-bedroom home where there's space for everyone, including Joanna and Miguel's two kids, Jessie, now 8, and Luke, 2. "Seven out of the eight weeks of summer, we have family staying with us," says Joanna. "That's what being here is all about."

Creating a home that was as fresh and breezy as the nearby beach was second nature to Joanna and Peggy. They, along with Miguel, are owners of Toronto's Au Lit Fine Linens and Liv by Au Lit. Anyone who has set foot inside these shops, with their soft, tousled linens and subdued neutral palettes, knows that imparting casual serenity is what these folks do best.

"There are variations from room to room, but overall the palette is a quintessential beach house one," says Joanna. With names like Beach Glass and Ocean Air, the paint colours set the tone. "Greyish greens, pale aqua-blues and muted blue-greens…all of these come into play and then Mom makes them pop!" Joanna is referring to the unexpected hits of bright pink that appear in many of the rooms. Like cheery announcements, they prevent the house from seeming too →

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT A once dark and narrow kitchen is now open and full of light; the oilcloth table covering is perfect for easy kid-friendly meals and activities; the casual eating nook was brightened up with Peggy Byron's handy paintbrush, which she used on the antique chairs and the plate rack; vintage chintz toss cushions lend colour and pattern to the white sofa; when Peggy painted the interior of this corner cabinet bright pink, Joanna was still in Toronto: "It's a good thing because I probably would've stopped her"; a collection of vintage and antique finds, such as the cast-iron mirror and floral dinnerware, play to the shabby chic theme throughout the house; perky pink ranunculuses cheer up the kitchen counter-tops; Araucana eggs in creamy whites and pastel blues and greens mirror the sea-inspired palette of the house.

RUG, Dash & Albert Rug Company.



WE LOVE COLOUR!

Peony 2079-30
SHELF PAINT,
Benjamin Moore.

What's your favourite colour combination?

Farrow & Ball's Skylight (a pale greyish blue) with white and charcoal grey.

Every surface in the room is quiet and gentle: Pale blue-grey walls and accents offset creamy white-painted furniture. Vintage floral fabrics and the armchairs, covered in a sunny toile, provide sweet pops of colour.

OTTOMAN, ARMCHAIR FABRIC, white cotton **SLIPCOVER,** Au Lit Fine Linens; **SOFA,** Lee Industries; striped **RUG,** Dash & Albert Rug Company.

WE LOVE COLOUR!

Skylight 205 **WALL PAINT,** Farrow & Ball.

If you could only live with one colour, what would it be?

White!

demure and juxtapose the soft linens that beckon from beds and tabletops to settle in, settle down and relax.

Painted antique furniture is everywhere in the house – something that Joanna credits Peggy with. "She was painting furniture long before it was the thing to do." In this house, it's genius because it adds playful swooshes of colour, as well as showcases the traditional lines of antique furnishings – something that is well suited to the home's age, which dates back to the 1700s. The interior has an almost daydreamy look to it that brings to mind whispering breezes and languorous warm-weather days. In fact, to walk in, you'd never guess that it was furnished and decorated in one sweep. Peggy not only decorated but also oversaw the renovation of the kitchen, originally quite dark and small, which was opened up to create an eating area and a big family room.

"Of course, the decorating never really stops," says Joanna. "We have a garage full of what Miguel calls junk and my mom calls treasures just waiting to be painted. And that's the fun of being here. It's always evolving but there's never any pressure." Like she says, it's a happy place: "Each year, when we unlock the door after five months of being away, it feels as if we've been here the whole time."

The white-painted twin beds and bedside table, all antiques, are ready for the many family members who fill the rooms of the house every summer.

Plaid SHAMS, monogrammed TOSS CUSHIONS, PENDANT LIGHT, Au Lit Fine Linens.

PHOTOGRAPHY XXXXXXXXXX

To get the shabby chic look, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/SHABBYCHIC.**

What's your advice for living with colour?

Always choose a palette that you love for the foundation of a room (wall colour, drapery, rug and textiles), as opposed to choosing a trendy colour that you'll grow tired of in one season – especially for the bedroom. I recommend serene, timeless colours that are calming and soft. Choose pops of "hot" or trendy colours for throws and decorative cushions.

create the ultimate bed

As the owner of Au Lit Fine Linens, Joanna Goodman knows a thing or two about making the bed a cozy haven.

SHEETS Choose quality. Joanna recommends Egyptian cotton sheets in your favourite thread count (her favourite is 410 – crisp with a soft hand).

PILLOWS "Pillows can make or break the quality of your sleep," says Joanna. Choosing the right pillow really comes down to personal preference, so make sure you try them out in the store.

DUVET Look for signs of quality: A good duvet should feel light and airy, as well as warm and cozy. The best duvets are filled with pure goose down and sewn in a baffle box to avoid clumping.

DUVET COVER & SHAMS "The bed is the focal point of your bedroom, so I always recommend that you fall in love with your duvet cover," says Joanna. Don't worry about trends; choose quality linens that evoke serenity and calm to enhance sleep.

BEDSKIRT Wraps around the frame of the bed to hide the box spring. Aesthetically, it can be tailored, with or without pleats, or gathered for a more feminine look.

TOSS CUSHIONS & THROWS "Here's your chance to go crazy with colour and pattern," says Joanna. A fabulous decorative cushion or colourful throw can bring a room to life!

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Peggy discovered this vintage dresser at an auction in Maine – the pale-blue colour was a perfect fit for the home's breezy interior; need we mention that the house is filled with soft linens in every possible size, hue and fabric? Talk about seaside comfort; tousled linens on an unmade guest bed beckon the sleeper to crawl back in; Peggy's bedroom is washed in pale light thanks to a great big window, soft blue walls, a vaulted ceiling with exposed beams and just a whisper of colour on the bed and rug; also found at an auction, this framed display of Victorian valentines caught Peggy's eye.

BEDDING, Au Lit Fine Linens; White Satin 2067-70 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore.

TEXT JENNIFER HUGHES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY BRANDFORD

colour me bright

Designer, homeowner, mother and blogger Meredith Heron manages to do it all in a way that's just as subtle as it is vibrant. In 15 questions, she reveals how she applied this juxtaposition to her Victorian rowhouse.

To prevent the narrow living room's numerous patterns from fighting for attention, homeowner and designer Meredith Heron used soothing neutrals as a backdrop. The sofa, stools and armchairs were all eBay finds that Meredith had reupholstered.

DESIGN, Meredith Heron Design, meredithheron.com; Edgecomb Gray HC-173 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Plexiglas **TABLES,** Absolutely; **TABLE LAMPS,** Decorum Decorative Finds; **RUG,** Weavers Art.

Meredith with her adorable two-year-old son, Luke. The neutral skirt on the TV console ("which, by the way, is a godsend with a toddler; it hides everything from sight") blends into the wall – a trick Meredith used to make the narrow living room feel larger.

Ask designer Meredith Heron what her favourite colour is and she'll break out in a sweat. "It's a designer's version of *Sophie's Choice*," she says. "I'm pretty fickle, and my favourite combinations change like the wind."

Despite this, her Victorian rowhouse in Toronto's charming Cabbagetown neighbourhood, which she shares with husband Asa Weinstein and their two-year-old son, Luke, is a stylish study in cohesive use of colour, pattern and texture. Greys and indigos mix with pomegranate in the living room, navy and pink create a sophisticated mix in the master bedroom, and white and coral grounded with black in the dressing room make for a vibrant aesthetic.

Pinning down Meredith's own decorating style is equally challenging, but "fearless" would definitely fit. Layers of pattern lend megawatt personality to her rooms, but a backdrop of muted neutrals keeps the look grounded and prevents a chaotic effect. This is especially important in a small space, which, at just under 1,000 square feet, is a consideration here. "Scale and proportion are key," with both pattern mixing and furniture size, says Meredith.

It's all a balancing act, and it seems that she's got it all figured out – until the winds of change blow again.

ABOVE The dining area is open to the kitchen, so it strikes a careful balance between formal and family-friendly. Grey faux ostrich leather on the chair seats can be easily wiped clean; the chair fronts and backs are upholstered in different patterns in the same grey palette. "I knew I wanted to go with grey, so I started the fabric choices off in the dining room before choosing similar-toned fabrics for the living room," says Meredith.

Seed Pearl 2314 **WALL PAINT,** Pratt & Lambert; Kelly Wearstler Imperial Trellis **CHAIR FABRIC** (on front of chairs), Schumacher; grey silk **CHAIR FABRIC** (on back of chairs), David Hicks; grey faux ostrich leather **CHAIR FABRIC** (on seats), Maxwell Fabrics.

LEFT A few hits of bright blue provide just the right amount of colour in the almost all-white kitchen.

What's your favourite colour combination?

I am drawn to mutable colours because they work so nicely with others and morph and change depending on the light or what you pair them with. I am specifically drawn to indigo. In my own house, you can see I've paired it with both pomegranate and citrine.

What was your approach to designing your own home?

I'm my own worst client. I like too many things. I'm terrible at making decisions when it comes to my own house. I often resort to treating my husband like a client, but he's just as bad. He's hesitant when I'm leaning toward bold and bold when I'm hesitating and wanting safe. Our house really did come together in a curated way. Pieces were bought on eBay and then stored until more pieces of the puzzle came together.

What was your original vision, and how did you go about executing it?

We live in a classic Victorian, so originally we wanted to hearken back to that. Of course, narrow Victorians have space limitations as well, so finding the right sofa, for example, was key to the overall design of our nine-foot-wide living room. We started with the Federal-style camelback sofa, opting to update it by having it sprayed and reupholstered. And then we paired the sofa with two vintage Vladimir Kagan slipper chairs that also needed to be reupholstered.

What's your go-to neutral?

I've done greys for years. I used to stalk Martha Stewart, looking at her use of greys and greiges. I know it's trendy right now, but I will always pick a grey as a neutral wall colour over a beige or tan. Having said that, I'm using navy as my preferred neutral at the moment.

How would you describe your own style?

I like bold gestures. I used to say that I loved a layered, eclectic look, but that has become such a clichéd design phrase that I shy away from it now. I am drawn to classic architecture, embellished interiors with unexpected colour combinations, and layers of pattern and texture. I like my interiors complex but grounded in the simple. How's that for a design paradox?

If you could only live with one colour, what would it be?

Indigo – it's the perfect neutral to me. It can be a dark inky charcoal, it can be a purple, it can be a navy. There isn't a colour it doesn't play nicely with.

What's your trick for keeping such a deep palette looking fresh and light?
It's all about balance and proportion – they can make any bold palette work. In our living room, I've kept the walls light because we only have one window that lets in light. Repeating aspects of the living room's palette in other areas of the house has established a sense of flow, which also makes the house feel bigger and brighter.

What's your advice for living with colour?

The key to living with colour is to ground it with a neutral. I often paint walls neutral, keep large pieces of upholstery neutral and then add in colour with accents, drapery and rugs. Colour in fabrics is much easier to live with than in paint. The only exception is in a transitional space, such as a hallway or powder room, where I don't have to look at it all the time.

What was easy when pulling the space together, and what was challenging? Did you try anything you thought would work but didn't?
The living room was a no-brainer once I found the drapery fabric and the floral we used on the sofa toss cushions. It only took three years to get to that point! I think the kitchen was the easiest part of the house to design. Our entire kitchen renovation lasted only two weeks, from the time we ripped it out until it was finished. Having said that, it was the longest two weeks of my life.

There's a lot of pattern in the living room. How do you mix so many patterns in one room without making it look too busy?
Keeping big pieces like the sofa and the walls neutral is the key to grounding everything. I chose patterns that had light backgrounds that related to the neutrals in the room. If the drapery had been a dark background with light embroidery, it would have closed in the room. The sofa blends into the wall, which keeps it from being defined and making the room seem narrower than it already is. Adding colour and pattern in the toss cushions offers the little bit of cheek I love to include in a space.

In the dining area, the chairs have no less than three patterns on them (seats, fronts and backs). That's a pretty big commitment.
Commitment? It's the complete opposite – it's fabric polygamy! Can't decide on just one? Go for three! This is probably one of my signature design tricks. I love to mix in as many fabrics as possible in a dining room. You see the chairs

from so many different vantage points, so I love the interest this creates. My big trick is to always make the seat a washable, well-wearing fabric. I am a klutz and spill red wine a lot – just ask my husband.

Your kitchen seems pretty neutral compared to the rest of the house.
We opted for a warm white kitchen because there is literally zero natural light in the room. My husband used to be a caterer. The kitchen is really his domain, so I approached him very much like a client when we were working on the design and layout. It's why we have so many open cabinets and shelves in the space. He used to always leave upper cabinet doors open for easy access. Now I don't bang my head on them!

The dressing room is much more feminine than the other rooms. Why did you decide to let your girlie side show in here?
My husband has referred to me as a girlie girl when it comes to dressing up. I suppose I indulged this side of me in the dressing room. My clothes, accessories and bags were overtaking the rest of our home and this room wasn't really getting much use, so I took it over in a single swoop. I think I may have "over-girlified" it to keep everyone out! My son calls it "Momma's Room."

The principal bedroom has a wonderful moody ambience thanks to the dark paint on the walls. Why did you decide to go so dark?
I really prefer a dark room to sleep in. To keep it from feeling too dark and heavy, I opted to go light on the bed, which ties in with the lighter neutral silk drapery and the carpet in the room.

Is there a common mistake you see people make in their homes when it comes to colour?
So many people say that if you want to redecorate or experiment with colour, paint the walls first. I actually disagree with this. So much is involved with selecting a paint colour – it's the last choice I make for a space because all of the other elements should be in place. Don't design your room around a $40 can of paint. The paint choice should complement or enhance everything else that's going on in a room.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

LEFT The dark walls in the master bedroom are offset by the room's bright, south-facing window and light-coloured bedding and carpet. The bold zebra-print bench brings a graphic punch to the space.

CHANDELIER, Green's Antiques; **BED FRAME, DRAPERY, MIRROR** (over bed), **CUSHIONS,** zebra-print **BENCH,** Meredith Heron Design.

ABOVE LEFT A spare room was put to good use by turning it into a chic, girlie dressing room for Meredith.

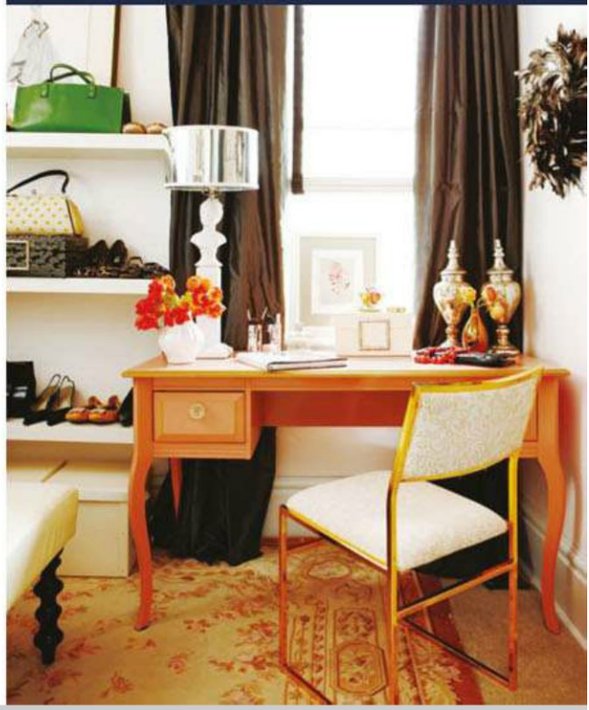
OTTOMAN, HomeSense.

ABOVE RIGHT Adding framed artwork with large white mats to the decor balances the bedroom's dark walls.

ARTWORK, Leigh Viner.

BELOW Meredith indulged her feminine side in the dressing room, opting for a palette of pink, coral and gold pulled directly from the antique Aubusson rug. Black curtains prevent the room from becoming too precious.

Soft White 2170-70 **WALL PAINT,** Coral Spice 2170-40 **VANITY PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; Edland **VANITY** (painted), IKEA.



Picked up at a local shop, the guest bedroom's rustic furniture is made of pine driftwood finished with plaster and then whitewashed. It lends an unexpected, casual Nantucket vibe to the space. A classic Marais A chair makes for a "nice little rustic makeup chair," says homeowner and designer Debbie Travis.

colour me fresh

A chic London, England, house close to her favourite shops lets decorating guru Debbie Travis explore her bright side. Here, she answers 15 questions about drawing international inspiration for her colourful collections.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STACEY VAN BERKEL

WE LOVE COLOUR!
N.B.C. White
30GY 76/017
WALL PAINT,
CIL Paints.

What's your favourite colour combination?

I love contrast, so I like black and white. In the case of my home in London, I love how all the heathery fabrics look paired with bright yellow because they've both got the same intensity, but they're completely opposite. It creates a very modern, fresh look.

In lieu of headboards, Debbie used oversized, overstuffed toss cushions with a playful polka-dot pattern in brown, lime green, grey and black. Elements like big duvets, linen bedskirts and the charcoal-grey carpet create a cozy, inviting look. "One thing I did here that I'd never do in Canada is install carpet," says Debbie. "Brits love carpet and there's a huge variety of quality, colour and pattern. This one is pure wool, which feels vastly different to what we have in Canada."

While many of us change outfits or try a new hairstyle to express our alter egos, Canadian design icon Debbie Travis creates different looks in her various homes. "I decorate them all completely differently," says Debbie, producer and host of famed home makeover series *Debbie Travis' Painted House* and *Debbie Travis' Facelift*, as well as more recent shows like *From the Ground Up* and *All for One*. She wants each aesthetic to make sense, evoke a certain feel and suit her lifestyle. Case in point: The Montreal family house where she and her husband, Hans Rosenstein, raised their sons, Josh, 23, and Max, 22, has a traditional look with a modern twist; her downtown Toronto condo, which serves as her personal bolthole, is like the coolest hotel space. And in this London, England, home – an 1840s workman's cottage on the Thames, where Debbie comes to catch up with friends and be inspired by the latest trends – she's created a look that's exciting and colourful. Defined by a neutral backdrop punctuated with splashes of bright hues and a bold mix of prints, this fresh look not only serves as the perfect foil for London's many overcast days, but also suits Debbie's renowned passion for all manner of colour and her infectious joie de vivre.

How long have you owned this home in London?
I bought it in the summer of 2010. I sold my last one about 15 years ago because I found I wasn't there most of the time. Now I'm here half the year.

Where is it located?
It's in the 'poor man's Chelsea,' at the end of the King's Road just on the Thames. It's in an area called The Tonsleys. I spent my 20s in London and I've always really liked it around here. Plus, I still have many of my old friends nearby. (We all think we're still 23!)

What is it like to be back there now compared to then?
That's a good question because you live very differently in your 20s. You're working hard and the money's tight, so it's very difficult to enjoy all that the city has to offer. Now it's nice because I can afford to do some things that were tough when I was younger. I see London through different eyes – like the eyes of friends coming over for a visit. I love being in Canada and I just adore the U.K. – they both offer incredibly different ways of living.

What do you like so much about your neighbourhood?
Three pubs on the street! What else? My street is still a cobble street with an old-fashioned high street at the end (in the U.K. there's a big push to preserve the high streets and save small businesses). Within only about four blocks you'll find a few pubs, four different cafés, a traditional butcher, an organic butcher, a little fish shop, a bakery, a flower shop...everything's there. Even the guy cutting keys. I love it! As soon as I arrive, I just put on my Wellies and my Barbour and I'm in my England mode.

The house is from the 1840s, and has an interesting history. This came before the Victorian homes, which have much higher ceilings. It's a workman's cottage, so there wouldn't have even been a bathroom originally. There's a cement factory on the Thames down the road – it's actually still there – and a lot of cottages like mine housed the people who worked there. Now,

What's your advice for living with colour?

Try to understand colour and figure out how it affects your mood. For example, in my London home, I used a few splashes of vibrant yellow, which made it look springlike. But if I used that colour on all the walls, it would become too aggressive. So if you're afraid of colour or still figuring it out, start off by using accessories like throws, cushions and plates, or maybe just paint a focal wall.

WE LOVE COLOUR!
Designers Guild Trevelyan **FABRIC** in Heather, Primavera.
WE LOVE COLOUR!
Designers Guild Essentials Arno **FABRIC** in Plum, Primavera.

ABOVE The small living room looks made for lounging with its cozy shag rug, a velvety chenille-covered sectional sofa and '50s-style leather chairs featuring bold striped backs. "Traditionally, sofas and chairs were stuck against walls, but now because we're all in open-plan places, you see the backs," says Debbie, "so what they're doing in England is putting a completely different fabric on them. Here, I put white leather on the front and stripes on the back, and it's fun!" **OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** Debbie in the backyard of her London cottage; hanging the television on the wall solved the problem of fitting in a bulky TV console; a vintage teapot and cups complement the home's pretty spring palette; Designers Guild candles feature a motif that's a current favourite of Debbie's.

SOFA, CHAIRS, TOSS CUSHION FABRICS, CANDLES, Designers Guild; black and white **PHOTOGRAPHS,** Max Rosenstein.

What's your go-to neutral?

Off-white. I love the way white changes in different light. One of my favourite things to do is take white and add the slightest bit of baby blue and put that on a ceiling. I did that in my Montreal home. It just adds a little more life to a room than a flat white, which is what everyone uses.

of course, they're all gentrified! But they're cute little cottages and what people do is rip them apart and renovate.

Did you need to renovate your house?

No, I didn't need to do a massive renovation because the kitchen and bathrooms were already done. But I decorated with paint, wallpaper and furnishings, starting from scratch.

I didn't take down any walls, as it was already all open concept. It's got a small living room at one end (in the old days, that would've been the parlour where you took the priest). And the kitchen has these huge glass bifold doors, which I keep open most of the year.

The house has a nice flow from the living room right into the kitchen area and out into the little backyard. With those glass doors and a massive skylight in the kitchen, the space is incredibly bright for one of these little cottages, which are traditionally quite dark.

What was your vision for the house?

I wanted a really fresh look. This is a place where you get off the plane and you're a bit tired, and I wanted to open that front door after a long flight and have it feel like spring. I incorporated a palette of heathery purples and bright yellows, and then I used soft neutral tones on the walls (like off-white, pale grey and wallpaper with a tone-on-tone circle pattern) so they didn't clash with the fabrics.

What inspired this palette?

I'm a Designers Guild groupie. Tricia Guild [the founder and creative director of Designers Guild] was one of my first design heroes and her way of combining colours has always inspired me to be adventurous. I think part of my success when I started *Painted House* was from coming out with all these unusual mixes of colours and saying that it's okay to put, for example, slaps of blue and green on your old wooden table and then to sand it back and put some spots on it. Nobody had seen that before in Canada. But Tricia Guild was doing it in Britain.

So in this house, a lot of elements came from Designers Guild, which made it easier for me because it's sometimes hard decorating a house from abroad, going back and forth. I didn't have a lot of time to shop.

The headboard in the master bedroom looks like a piece of art.

My sister makes these headboards for a living, so she made this one using that yellow print with the oversized urns. It had just come out at Designers Guild and, God, I loved it! And these headboards aren't expensive to make because all you need is a piece of plywood and then you attach some foam and a couple of metres of fabric. It looks fantastic with the big print.

There are a lot of little DIY projects in the house, actually. I hung the entryway shelf myself, for example. I lugged those brackets on Air Canada (nearly killing about 10 people!) from my basement in Montreal. I picked them up at the side of the road at some garage sale years ago – they're the moulding from the exterior of the type of clapboard house you'd see in Quebec's Eastern Townships. I just purchased

If you could only live with one colour, what would it be?

Cranberry.

OPPOSITE An antique French florists' table, surrounded by classic Eiffel chairs, defines the dining area on the main floor. Even when the table is not set, elements like the bright amethyst table runner and lavender candles can be left out to provide splashes of bold colour. **ABOVE** The house's bright all-white kitchen, which came equipped with little luxuries like an espresso maker and a wine fridge, boasts an inviting indoor-outdoor vibe. The stone floors continue all the way through to the back terrace to enhance visual flow. Debbie keeps the glass bifold doors open year-round. **BELOW LEFT** The back terrace offers a place to enjoy traditional English tea and cucumber sandwiches. The row of bamboo provides extra privacy. **BELOW CENTRE** Bright amethyst alliums complement the colour palette. **BELOW RIGHT** "The kitchen cabinets and appliances were already here (even the stools!), so I just bought countertop items in bright colours," says Debbie. "In England, you can get a kettle in 40 colours!"

ABOVE LEFT Debbie's DIY shelves made of brackets refashioned from house moulding and a piece of back-painted glass. **ABOVE RIGHT** In the hallway, captain's mirrors hanging from deer-head hooks serve as an homage to Canada. **BELOW** Inspired by the oversized headboards Debbie saw in the suites at London's The Soho and Haymarket hotels, the master bedroom's headboard, made by Debbie's sister, serves as a vibrant focal point. "It's very high, so you don't need any other art on the wall," says Debbie. Designers Guild Brackenbury striped bed linens complement the scheme.

Debbie Travis Collection round **MIRRORS,** Canadian Tire.

WE LOVE COLOUR!

Designers Guild Zephirine Palmieri **FABRIC** in Chartreuse, Primavera.

a piece of glass, which cost me about £20, and had it back-painted at a little glass company down the road that uses any water-based paint you like. I picked a lovely soft lilac colour that's really soothing. That's something anyone can do.

Also, I made those captain's mirrors in the second-floor hallway as an homage to Canada. Those are Debbie Travis mirrors from Canadian Tire and two leather belts (you can just find some old belts at a garage sale and tack them on). Then I bought the two deer-head knobs from a shop here in London called Chloe Alberry. That was really simple to do.

I love how you've juxtaposed rustic and modern.

Yes, I wanted a little bit of "old" in here. The dining table is an antique florists' table from France with a wooden top and rusty wrought-iron legs. It came from an Anthropologie store in London, where it was piled up with T-shirts. I was whipping off all the T-shirts and the sales-woman was saying "What are you doing?"

I found the guest room furniture – the desk, side table and mirror – at a local shop. They're made of planks of pine driftwood just hobbled together and then finished with a bit of plaster and whitewashed. The furniture gives a bit of a Nantucket vibe, which you wouldn't expect to see in a London home.

The dining room table setting, too, follows the same kind of elegant but casual feel. It's really simple! And again, I like the idea of mixing old and new, so I used some antique silver candlesticks, which I received as a Christmas present, and paired them with a mix of white opaque and lovely blush glass plates from Designers Guild. Then I added a splash of colour down the centre using a linen runner, which coordinates with the linen napkins that I use.

What was your biggest challenge when decorating the space?

Trying to find something for the television – that was killer! My son ended up hanging it on the wall and I found a modern white lacquer-and-steel console to put underneath.

You wore the dress (designed by Nicole Farhi) hanging in the bedroom when you were covering the Royal Wedding for *Entertainment Tonight Canada*. What was that like?

It was the highlight of my career. Just being at rehearsals the night before was amazing when you've got Piers Morgan in one room, Barbara Walters in another and Meredith Vieira in yet another. You've got the CBC crowd and the Global crowd, and we were all right next to the palace. The atmosphere was stupendous by the palace. And to see a million people walk up The Mall in one go was outstanding. You're never going to see something like that again.

I've been so lucky to experience that kind of once-in-a-lifetime event. Now, I'm living my dream and renovating a 300-year-old property in Tuscany – it's a 65-acre farm with 800 olive trees – into a luxury B&B.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

CHLOE ALBERRY "One of the most beautiful places on Notting Hill Gate is this tiny shop that sells door knobs. They sell ones made out of glass, out of bone, out of plastic, out of resin, out of everything. Some are very old, and some are newer knock-offs."

THE PANTRY "This little coffee shop on my street serves simple organic food and has great coffee. There are lots of mums with strollers, people on their iPads and businessmen reading newspapers. With a communal environment, it's a place you can strike up a chat or just sit quietly on your own."

FLOWER SHOPS "The easiest decor trick is decluttering, second is buying flowers, and third is painting. If you have no money, throw out what you don't use. If you've got 10 bucks, buy a bunch of flowers; if you've got 30 bucks, get a can of paint."

London calling

Debbie Travis and *Style at Home*'s editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin hit the streets of London to check out some of Debbie's favourite haunts. It's a sightseeing trip that would inspire any decorating devotee.

CHELSEA "London's Chelsea neighbourhood is famous for its little rowhouses painted in different colours like turquoise, red and yellow. They're such tiny jewels. I mean, when in Canada would you paint your house a fluorescent yellow?"

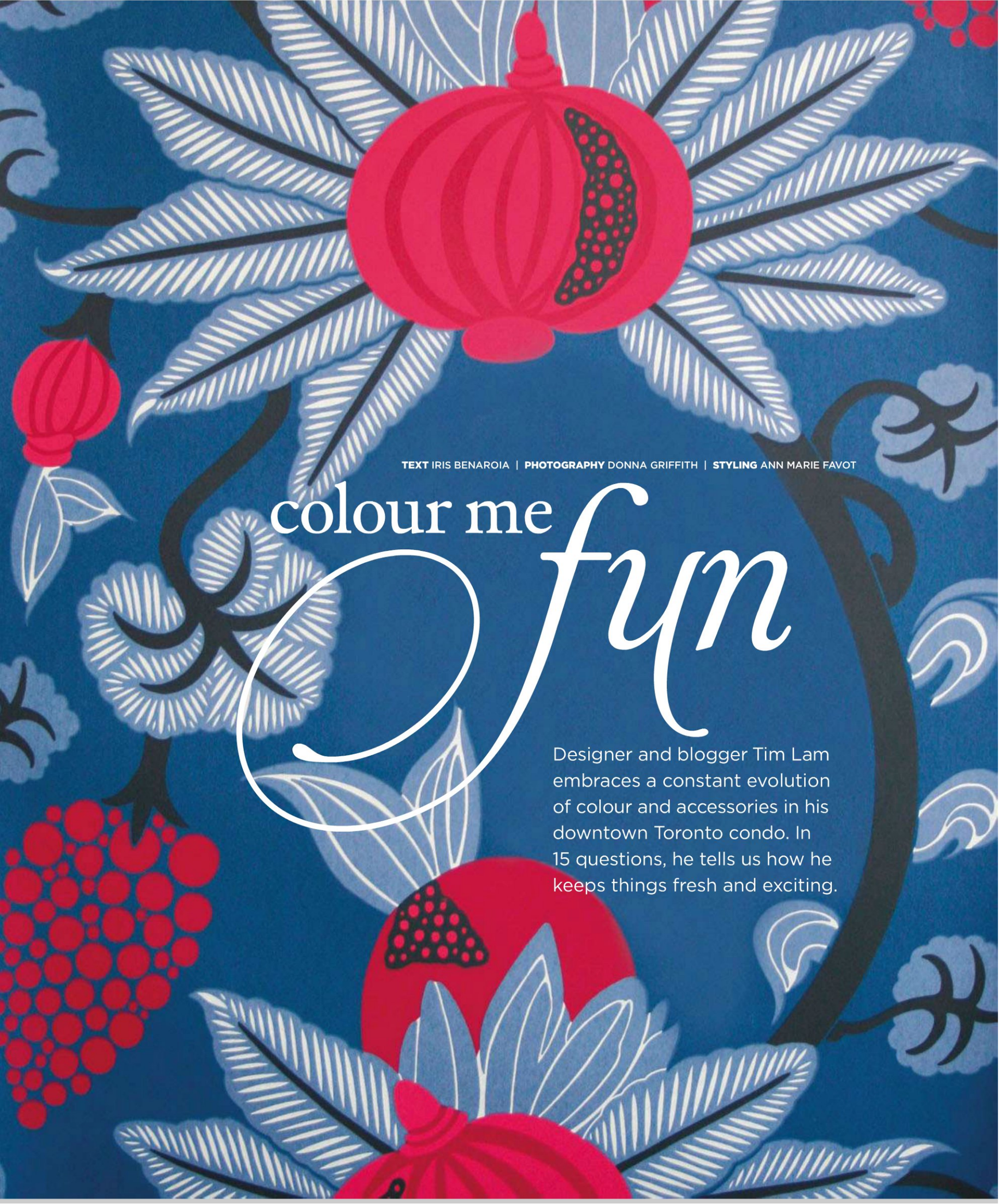
DESIGNERS GUILD "Located on the King's Road, this Designers Guild sells everything from fabric and wallpaper to cushions and furniture. It's a wonderland of colour! And it's an essential stop for designers and homeowners to see how to mix colours and patterns."

The rug and statement wallpaper are a testament to designer and homeowner Tim Lam's chutzpah – he's not afraid to get flashy. To balance the colours, classic Cherner dining chairs and a Saarinen-inspired dining table were introduced. The funky chandelier adds a note of whimsy.

DESIGN, Design Maze Interiors, designmaze.ca; **RUG,** Elte.

WE LOVE COLOUR!

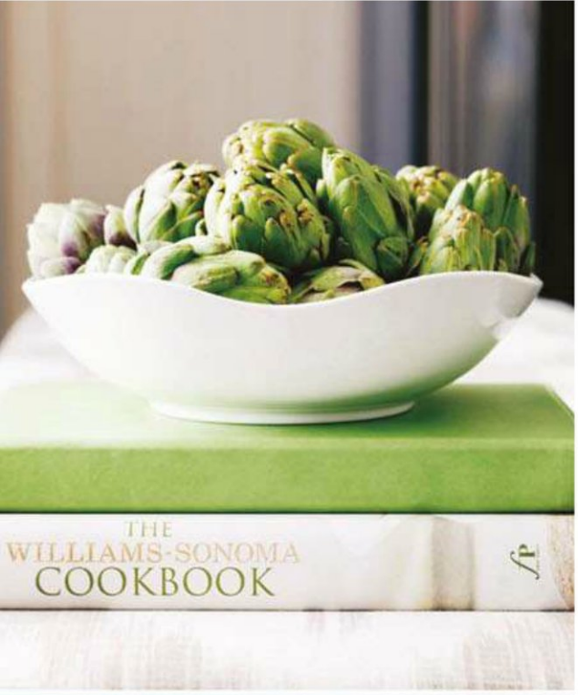
Osborne & Little Sariskar Maharani **WALLPAPER** in 02, Primavera.



TEXT IRIS BENAROIA | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** ANN MARIE FAVOT

colour me fun

Designer and blogger Tim Lam embraces a constant evolution of colour and accessories in his downtown Toronto condo. In 15 questions, he tells us how he keeps things fresh and exciting.



Tim Lam's home is a shrine to all things loved. The 33-year-old decorator and blogger (and auditor) behind Design Maze has amassed a vibrant collection of furniture and accessories in his downtown Toronto condo. Wonderfully energetic, his 750-square-foot space harnesses colour and pattern – and lots of it – against a neutral backdrop. It's impossible not to feel happy here. Tim changes his home's look seasonally to keep it fresh. With his gumption, we're sure we'll be seeing great things from this decorator.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Simple and stylish: An organic-shaped bowl cradles fresh artichokes; at first glance, the living room's palette seems haphazard, but Tim's colour choices are actually complementary; Tim loves collecting pottery, mixing expensive and inexpensive pieces from different eras: "As long as they're all white, they look harmonious together," he says; unlike the rest of his condo, the kitchen is kept simple yet finished with Tim's deft touch; with its animated, interlacing botanical pattern, this wallpaper (which Tim first saw in *Style at Home*!) makes a beguiling focal point in the dining room; since Tim didn't have room in his condo for a bar, he fashioned a tray (made from a picture frame, fabric and several baking sheets for reinforcement) to hold everything from cocktails to baked goods to sit on his cooktop; Tim's collection of white shapely pottery looks striking against the back-painted shelving unit that was retrofitted with glass shelves.

RUG, Elte; **SLIPPER CHAIR UPHOLSTERY,** Duguay Antique Restoration; **TOSS CUSHION FABRICS,** Designer Fabrics; **TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Wesley Seto Design; **TABLE LAMP,** Jonathan Adler; white **POTTERY,** Eva Zeisel Originals.

When did you start your blog, Design Maze (designmaze-tim.blogspot.com), and why?
The idea of blogging actually came from my good friend Scott Young, an extremely talented photographer, who suggested I document the hard work I've done to revamp my 30-year-old condo. I thought what an amazing idea to use my blog as a venue to share my thoughts and pictures of my condo with friends and family, especially with many of them living in Asia. I'm so glad that Scott put this idea in my head. It's one of the best decisions I've ever made in my life!

What did your place look like before you brought your keen eye to it?
It was a bad 1970s job. The walls were in good condition, but they were beige. The original parquet flooring was in rough shape, the kitchen was really dated with its original linoleum flooring, and the horrifying salmon-pink bathroom had to go.

Did you tackle your condo all at once or one room at a time?
I had the luxury of doing it all at once and stayed at my dad's place during the renovation. With all the flooring coming up, a bathroom to completely redo and a kitchen to modernize, I was glad that I didn't have to live through all that drywall dust.

What inspired your condo's look?
I was obsessed with the first season of *Sarah's House* when I purchased my condo (well, I'm still obsessed with the show). So naturally, the colour palettes, design details and materials used by Sarah Richardson and Tommy Smythe inspired many of my own design decisions. I love their timeless, classic and elegant aesthetic, as well as their attention to detail and ingenious mixing of fabrics and patterns.

Where else do you go for design inspiration?
I subscribe to different magazines and clip my favourite rooms and put them in a folder – I'm an old-fashioned guy in this regard. I'm always online looking at Apartment Therapy, Design*Sponge and other design blogs – the world of design bloggers is so inspiring.

Where do you find pieces for your clever vignettes?
Most of the time, I arrange objects that I already own. I'm an accessories hoarder, so I'm always on the lookout for unique, stylish and affordable decorative pieces. I have a secret stash in my closet. I also store lamps, mirrors, *objets* and vases in my dad's basement. It's gotten to the point where he's told me "You have to stop shopping!"

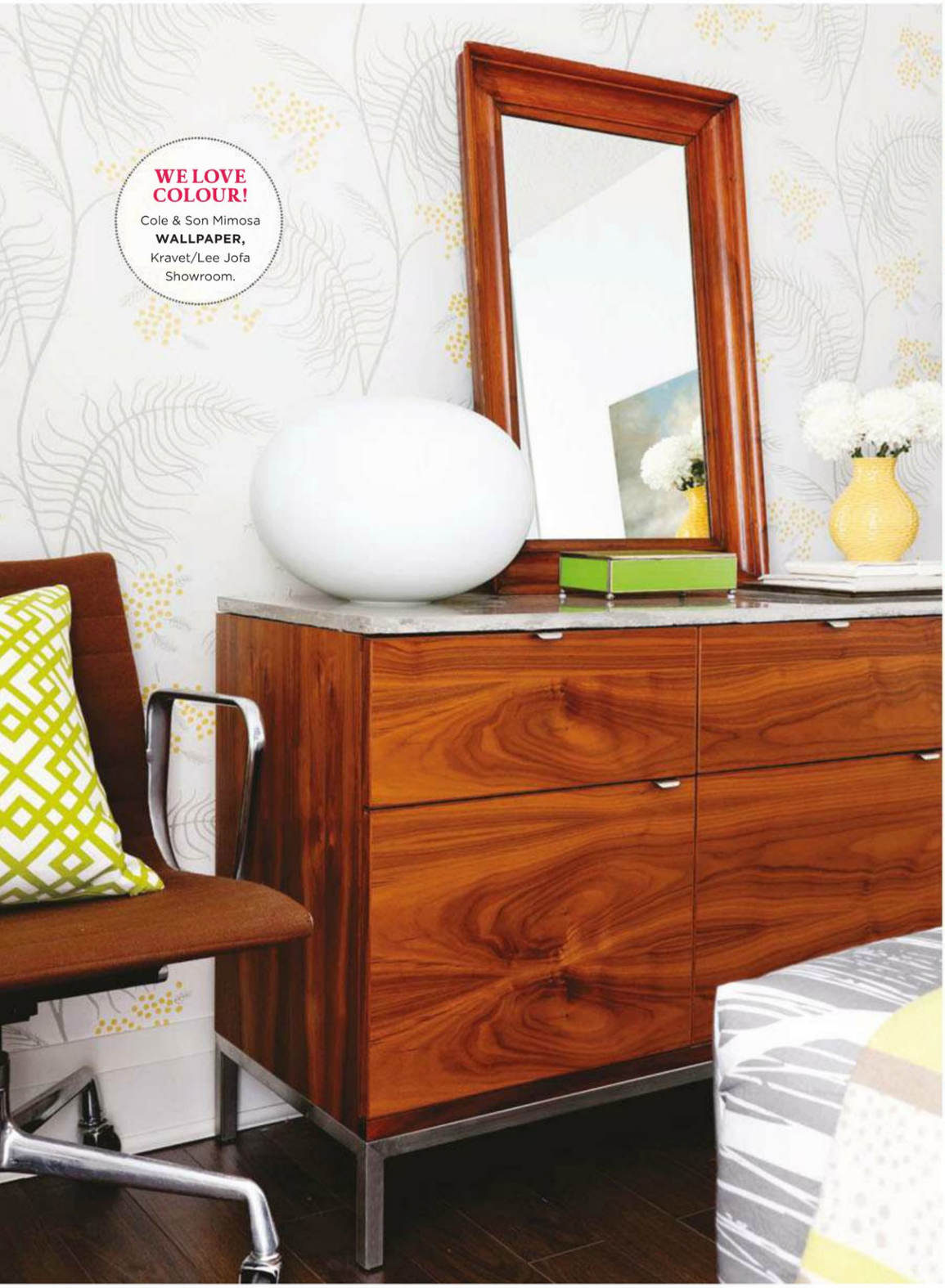
An ethereal glass coffee table quiets down all the activity in the space. "It has a light, airy look that I love," says Tim. The 1950s original Saarinen Womb chair was beige when he bought it and the foam was ruined. Recovered in bright red, it takes pride of place in the living room.

What's your advice for living with colour?

Listen to your heart. Don't be afraid of what may seem too bold. As long as you love it, that's all that matters. If you back away from what you love and pick something else, the space will just be safe and you'll always wonder what the room would have looked like if you had gone for your number one choice. After all, you can start with small doses or easy-to-remove applications (for example, on a focal wall or on toss cushions) and go from there.

What's your go-to neutral?

It has to be either white or grey. I love how calming and serene it is when the two colours play off each other in a space. I applied this theory in my own home with CIL Paints' Wedding White and White Husky. I also like CIL Paints' The Plaza – it's the perfect warm grey to complement any neutral space.



WE LOVE COLOUR!
Cole & Son Mimosa **WALLPAPER,** Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom.

TOP Since his bedroom doesn't have a closet, Tim (pictured above) reconfigured IKEA's Pax wardrobe system to fit around his head-board, giving it the look of a built-in.

Pax **WARDROBE,** IKEA; **TOSS CUSHION FABRICS,** Designer Fabrics.

LEFT Pattern emerges from both the wallpaper – which has a muted botanical design – and the natural striations on the dresser. A buttery yellow vase adds warmth to the scene.

DRESSER, Stylegarage.

OPPOSITE Bright Billy buttons – favoured by designers because they're so cute and springy – highlight the yellows in the encaustic artwork.

Saarinen **SIDE TABLE,** Gabriel Ross; *Momentum* **ARTWORK,** Laura Culic.

Tim dishes on his passion for design and decor in 20 questions. Visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/TIMLAM.**

You've changed the look of your condo since *Style at Home* visited. What does it look like now?
At the moment, my place is all neutral. After living with those bright, bold colours for a couple of years, I wanted to introduce drama and interest into my space through subdued hues, variant textures and patterns. I chose yellow as an accent to highlight the various shades of grey and natural linen. It's the richness of a smooth silvery velvet, a powerful yet calming grey-and-cream zebra print and warm metal accents that bring the space to life. I kept all the furniture the same, except for the sofa. My new sofa is much more neutral than the green one shown here but has a fun polka-dotted fabric that goes around the back.

Any notable design mishaps?
The sofa sent a chill up my spine when it first arrived. It's the same length as the green one but without the built-in side table, so the room looked off balance when the new sofa was put in place. The red Womb chair also really stood out in a room full of neutrals. To solve this dilemma, I moved the furniture around, switched up side tables from another room and added new drapery with a geometric print to counter the chair's bold colour. The end result is an unbelievably cozy living room!

How often do you change up the look of your space?
I used to change up the decor in my place three times a year. Now I've cut back to spring/summer and fall/winter.

To what extent?
I tend to change accessories like toss cushions rather than repainting walls or putting up new wallpaper. If you look closely, my house is really more neutral than you might think, with white and grey throughout. This neutral backdrop allows me to easily switch up my accent colours without a significant financial commitment. However, I'm a firm believer that there's an impact, drama and energy that can only be achieved through wallpaper.

Any design rules or things that you shouldn't do?
Never one-stop shop! I know it's easy to go to your favourite store, hand over your credit card and wait a few weeks for the entire living room set to pop up at your house. The difference between a house and a home is its character and personality, which can't be achieved through one-stop shopping. Just because the pieces play well in the showroom doesn't mean you'll like them forever in your own home. My approach has always been to shop at stores with different price points and then mingle my finds together for an eclectic yet cohesive look.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

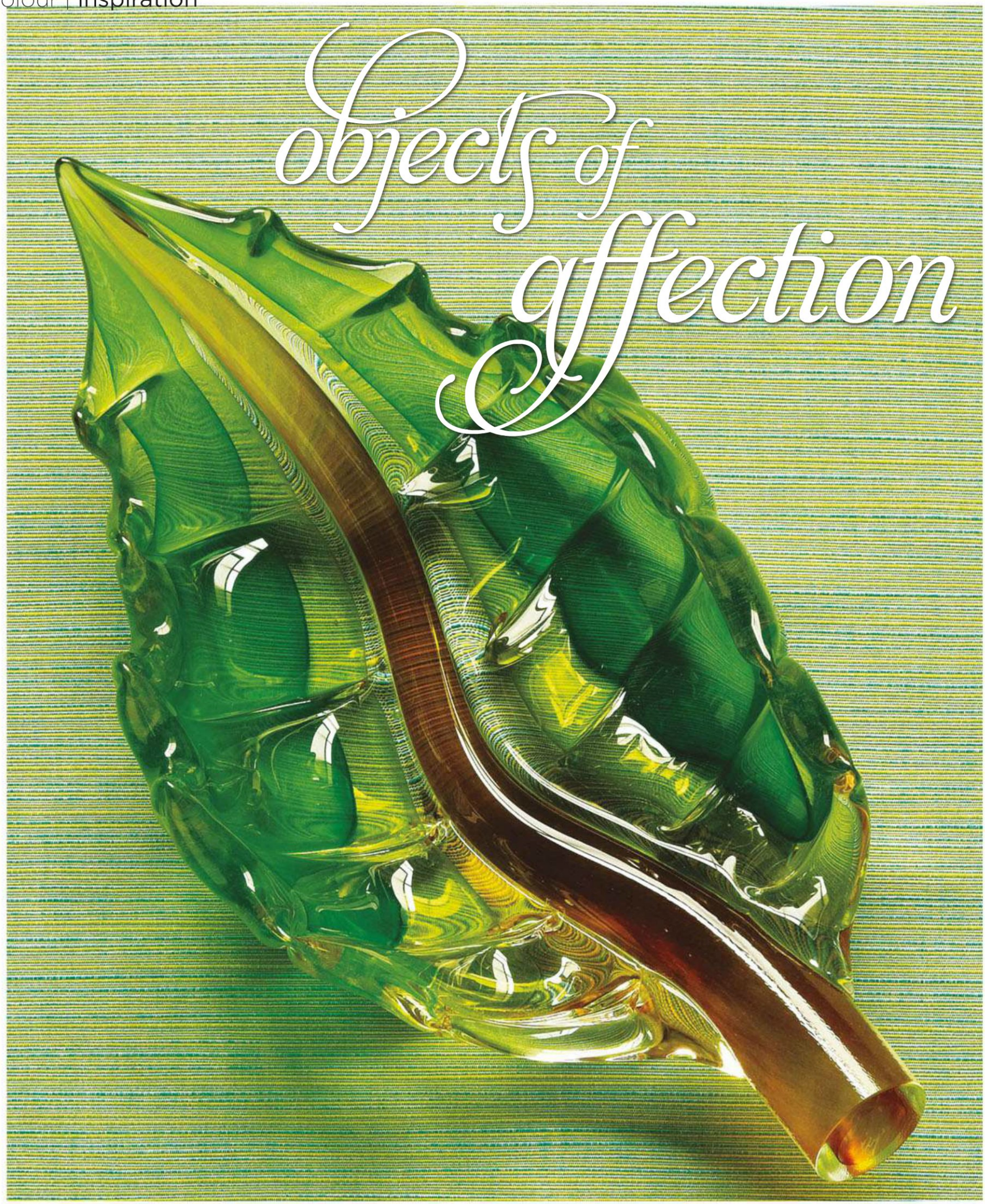
If you could only live with one colour, what would it be?

I would go for a warm white, such as CIL Paints' Wedding White – it works with anything!

What's your favourite colour combination?

At the moment, it's a rich royal blue with a muted golden yellow. I love how the elegant shade of yellow juxtaposes with the deep, sophisticated blue. The overall effect is exquisite, decadent and electric.

Objects of affection



PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

The finishing touches are the layers that make a house a home. It's those sculptural pieces we couldn't resist, the heirlooms passed down to us and the mementoes of our travels that are the artifacts of a life well lived. Here, we've curated our latest favourites in a gentle colour wave that moves from hues of heavenly sky to a garden of earthy greens.

PRODUCER JESSICA WAKS | **TEXT** SUZANNE MOUTIS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RYAN BROOK

Sculptural *objets* in like colours form a lovely vignette when displayed in an ombré effect, moving from translucent, watery shades of blue through to milky and chalky opaque surfaces.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Blue studded glass **DECANTER,** HomeSense; Somrig **VASE,** IKEA; medium **STACKING BOX** in Tiffany Blue, 1212 Decor; DwellStudio blue glass bulb **VASE,** Global Views; cobalt **VASE,** Hollace Cluny; small blue glass **VASE,** Putti Fine Furnishings.

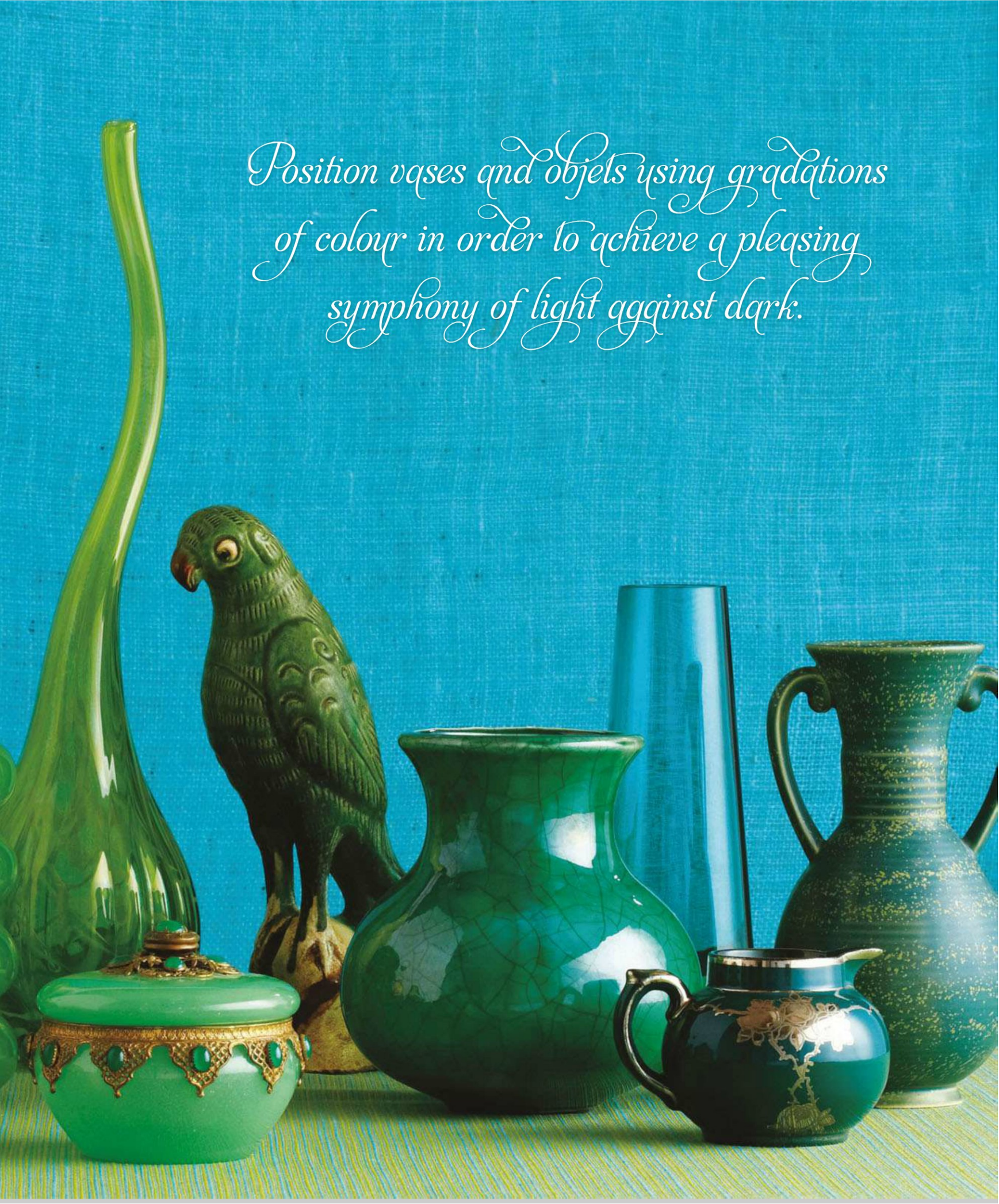
OPPOSITE A single stunning piece speaks volumes on its own.

Green art-glass leaf **BOWL,** Global Views.

An array of earthy greens moves through the colour spectrum from yellowy chartreuse to blue-tinged peacock in this tableau. Varying heights and shapes create interest and add dimension to a display of treasured possessions.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Green glass **VASE,** 1212 Decor; Juno **VASE,** Crate and Barrel; vintage green and gold **BOX,** Artifacts; **HOURGLASS** with green sand, Boo Boo & Lefty; Middle Kingdom Lover **VASE** in Apple, 1212 Decor; Solstrale **VASE** in Green, IKEA; small green squiggle **VASE,** L'Atelier; green opaline **LIDDED JAR,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques; glazed parrot **FIGURINE,** Boo Boo & Lefty; green crackle **VASE,** green glass **VASE,** ChairTableLamp; green **CREAMER,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques; green **URN,** Elegant Garage Sale.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

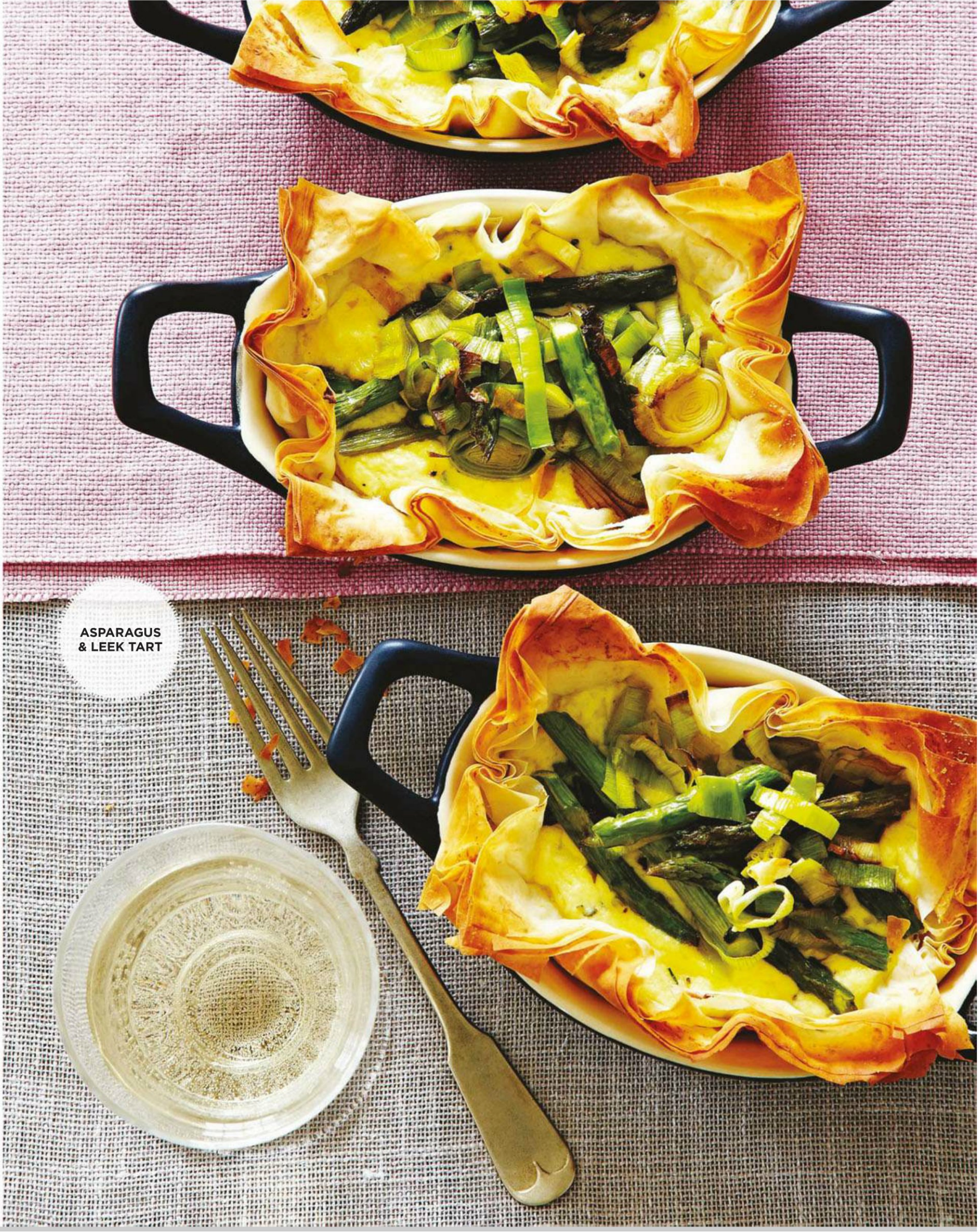

Position vases and objets using gradations
of colour in order to achieve a pleasing
symphony of light against dark.

spring's first blush

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING CLAIRE STUBBS | **PHOTOGRAPHY** EDWARD POND | **PROP STYLING** LARA MCGRAW

The season's tender treasures show off to perfection in dishes that focus on freshness.

STYLING ASSISTANT, ANN MARIE FAVOT; FOTO PENDANT LIGHT, MELLTORP DINING TABLE, IKEA, IKEA.CA; TABLE PAINT, PAVILION GRAY, FARROW & BALL, FARROW-BALL.COM; DISHES, GLASS BOTTLE, CERAMIC CARAFE, CANVAS, SHOP.CANVASHOMESTORE.COM; SISAL RUG, WEST ELM, WESTELM.COM


ASPARAGUS
& LEEK TART

By the time we hit April, Canadians are more than ready to embrace the onset of spring. And what better way to welcome the season than with a soft and pretty dinner party featuring a bevy of fleeting spring flavours. It's only now, for a few weeks of the year (if we're lucky!), that we can take advantage of the freshest morels, fiddleheads and ramps before they disappear. Here, we're complementing their delicate earthy taste with ingredients that enhance, not overpower, and then dressing up the decor accordingly, with muted shades of blush and flax to set it all off with a sweet sense of sophistication. So choose your ingredients wisely, send an invitation to your friends and revel in the essential burgeoning bounty of spring's rejuvenation.

RISOTTO WITH MORELS & RAMPS

DISHES, CANVAS, SHOP.CANVASHOMESTORE.COM

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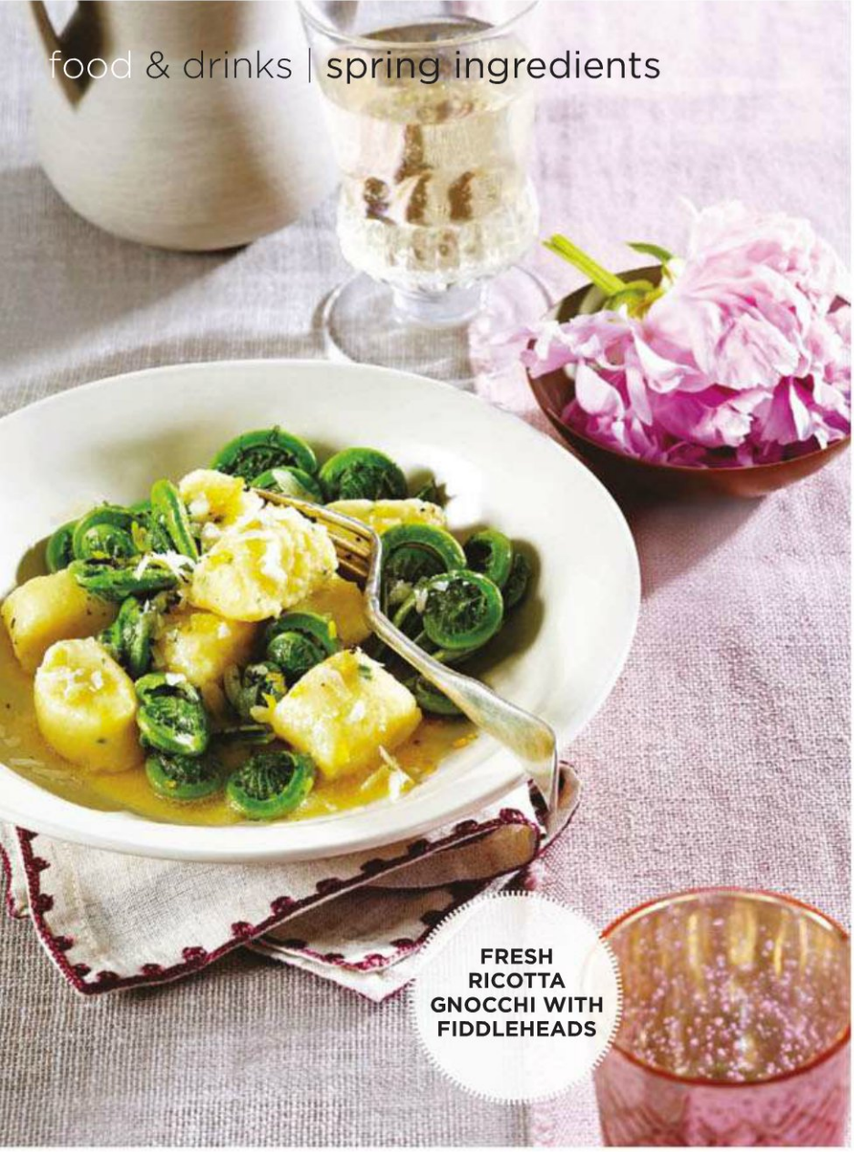

MUTED SHADES OF BLUSH AND FLAX SET OFF THE FRESH SHADES OF THIS SPRING'S FIRST GREENS.

RISOTTO WITH MORELS & RAMPS

SERVES 4 TO 6

- 5 to 6 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- ½ lb morel mushrooms, cleaned
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup minced white onion
- ⅓ cup chopped fresh ramps
- 2 cups arborio rice
- 1 cup freshly grated Pecorino Romano cheese
- 3 tbsp soft creamy cheese, such as Boursin
- ¼ cup chopped lemon thyme

Bring the stock to a boil in a medium pot and keep warm on the stove. Trim any dried stems from the morels and slice the larger ones in half lengthwise. Set aside.

Heat the olive oil in a large, heavy-bottomed pot over low heat. Add the garlic and onion and cook gently for about 10 minutes, until the onion is soft and translucent but not browned.

Turn the heat up to medium and add the ramps, reserved morels and rice, stirring to coat for 2 minutes. Add a ladleful of hot stock to the rice. Stirring gently will help release the starch from the rice, which will create a creamy risotto. Keep the heat at a gentle simmer. Add the next ladleful of stock when the first one is fully absorbed. Continue adding stock, just enough each time to keep the mixture creamy and saucy as it cooks.

Check the rice at the 15-minute mark. It should be tender and saucy but still have a slight al dente bite. If it's too firm, give it a little more stock and a couple more minutes of cooking time.

When the rice is almost done, remove it from the heat and stir in the cheeses and lemon thyme. Let the risotto sit for a minute before serving. Divide into four shallow bowls and serve with more grated Pecorino.

FRESH RICOTTA GNOCCHI WITH FIDDLEHEADS

SERVES 4

- 8 oz best-quality ricotta, drained
- 1 tbsp finely chopped chives
- 1 tsp freshly grated lemon zest
- ½ tsp Maldon sea salt
- 1 free-range organic egg yolk
- 1 oz freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- ¾ lb fiddlehead ferns, cleaned

In a large bowl, stir together the ricotta, chives, lemon zest, salt, egg yolk and Parmesan. Add the flour and mix gently just to bring the dough together. The dough will be quite sticky, but the less flour you use and the less it's overmixed the lighter and fluffier the gnocchi will be. The amount of flour you need will depend on the moisture content of the ricotta.

To shape the gnocchi, lightly flour a clean, dry surface and divide the dough into two. Roll out each piece into a long rope about ¾" thick. Cut the gnocchi into ½" pieces. You should have about 30 little pillow-shaped pieces.

Meanwhile, bring a large pot of salted water to a gentle simmer, not a rolling boil. Drop in the gnocchi and stir once to stop them from sticking to the bottom of the pot. As they float to the surface, after about 2 or 3 minutes, scoop them out with a slotted spoon and place in a sauté pan with the butter. Keep warm while the fiddleheads are cooking.

Bring the same pot of water to a full rolling boil and cook the fiddleheads for 4 minutes, until they turn bright green. Drain well and add them to the pan with the butter and the gnocchi. Heat gently and toss to coat. Serve right away with a grinding of fresh black pepper, a few chopped chives and a little more Parmesan cheese if desired.

ASPARAGUS & LEEK TART

SERVES 4

Phyllo pastry
- 5 sheets phyllo pastry
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Tart filling
- 2 small leeks, white and pale green parts only
- ½ lb asparagus
- 1 tbsp unsalted butter
- 8 oz fresh ricotta cheese
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ cup crème fraîche
- 2 tbsp chopped lemon thyme
- 1 free-range organic egg

Preheat the oven to 375°F. On a clean, dry surface, lay out one sheet of phyllo pastry. Brush lightly with olive oil and sprinkle with some of the cheese. Top with another sheet of phyllo pastry and more cheese; repeat layering with all five layers of phyllo. With a sharp knife, cut the stack of phyllo slices into four pieces. Snuggle the phyllo quarters into four single-serve casserole dishes (about 1½ cups capacity) and refrigerate until ready to fill.

To make the filling, slice the leeks into ¼" rings, wash well and drain. Slice the asparagus diagonally into 1½" pieces. Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat and add the leeks and asparagus, cooking until tender crisp, about 6 minutes. Remove from heat and set aside.

In a large bowl, stir together the cheeses, crème fraîche, lemon thyme and egg. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Spoon the filling into the prepared pastry shells and place the asparagus and leeks on top. Place the dishes on a baking sheet and bake for 18 to 20 minutes. Serve warm or cool.

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everything goes

Mix and match textures for an easy spring table setting. Use nubbly fabrics like linen and burlap with a set of matte dishes and botanically themed touches in wallpaper and centrepieces.

LARA SERVES UP STYLE

Prop stylist Lara McGraw has the best eye in the business for the perfect pieces to set the table. For springtime's first soiree, she chose a muted palette of delicate pink, earthy grey-brown and champagne shades to bridge the gap between cozy winter textures and the fresh appeal of this new season.

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Spread a little dulce deliciousness.

Dulce de Leche Cheesecake

Prep: 15 min. **| Total**: 7 hours **| Makes**: 16 servings

1 can	sweetened condensed milk	3 pkg.	PHILADELPHIA Brick Cream Cheese, softened
1-1/4 cups	*Honey Maid* Graham Crumbs	1/2 cup	sugar
1/4 cup	butter, melted	3	eggs

HEAT oven to 425°F. POUR condensed milk into 9-inch pie plate; cover with foil. Place in shallow pan filled with boiling water to 1-inch depth. Bake 1 hour. Remove pie plate from water bath. Beat milk with whisk until smooth. Cool 1 hour. Remove 1/2 cup sauce; refrigerate remaining sauce for later use. HEAT oven to 350°F. Mix graham crumbs and butter; press onto bottom of 9-inch springform pan. Beat cream cheese and sugar in large bowl with mixer until well blended. Add 1/2 cup sauce; mix well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating on low speed after each just until blended. Pour over crust. BAKE 40 to 45 min. or until centre is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool before removing rim. Refrigerate 4 hours. POUR remaining sauce into microwaveable bowl when ready to serve cheesecake. Microwave on HIGH 15 sec. or until warmed; stir. Drizzle over cheesecake.

Shortcut: Prepare using 1 cup of store-bought dulce de leche sauce.

cookingwithphilly.ca

new column!

drink pink

For many, the centre of gravity in the world of wine is either white or red. But there's an oft-forgotten treasure to be discovered in between: pink!

What is pink wine? The mechanics of how wine gets its colour are often misunderstood. Simple logic would suggest that red wine is made from red grapes, and white wine from white grapes, but this isn't always the case. After crushing red grapes, the white juice is put back in contact with its skins. The length of time together and skin thickness determine a red wine's depth of colour. Typically, rosés are made with red grape varieties (such as Cabernet, Malbec or Pinot Noir), and the longer the juice spends in contact with the skins, the deeper the colour (from blush to deep pink).

PICK YOUR PINK

There's a tendency to assume that all things pink will taste as sweet and fruity as a white Zinfandel, which isn't necessarily true. Rosés can range from very sweet (white Zinfandel) or very dry (Cabernet or Pinot Noir) to sparkling (Henry of Pelham Cuvée Catharine Rosé) or still (Remy Pannier Rosé d'Anjou), depending on the region, the grape and how the winemaker chooses to make its wine. Many wineries from all over the world experiment with rosés, so start sipping and find your favourite!

PAIRING WITH PINK

With spring fare on our tables and summer just around the corner, keep a bottle of rosé ready to serve with your next outdoor meal. It pairs perfectly with summer salads, food from the grill, cheeses, brunch and more. Rosé is also an ideal base to make sangria – simply add fresh fruit and some fruit juice, set overnight and serve.

PINK PARTIES

Planning a shower or an outdoor party? Pink wine is a party-friendly choice and the perfect way to introduce some fun and colour to your drink menu. Everyone will remember the toast with a glass of sparkling rosé in hand – it feels just a little bit more special.

Wine expert **Angela Aiello** is the founder of the iYellow Wine Club (iyellowwineclub.com), which hosts regular events, classes and tours where members can build wine confidence and appreciation through discovery.

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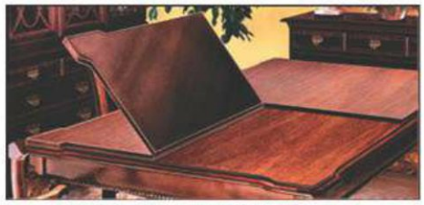

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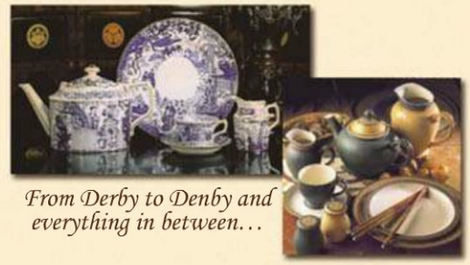

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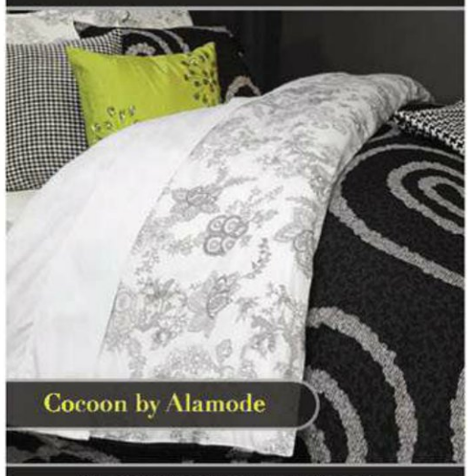

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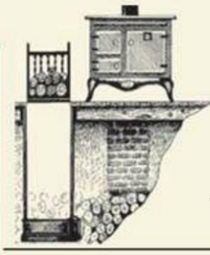

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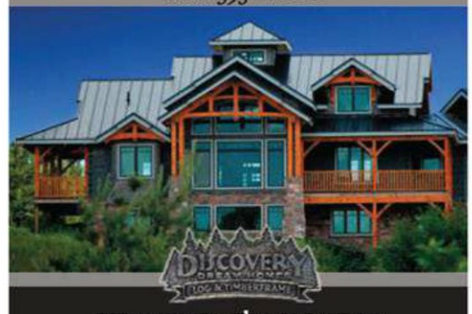

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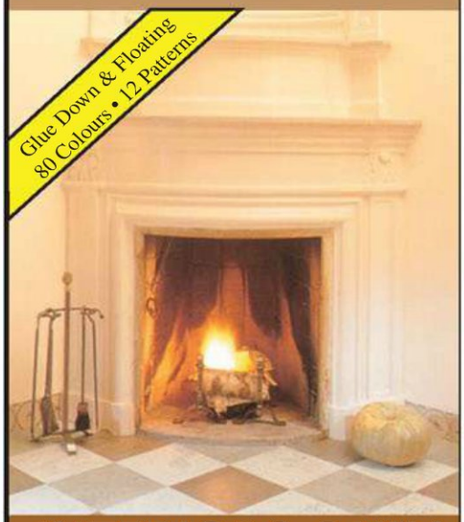

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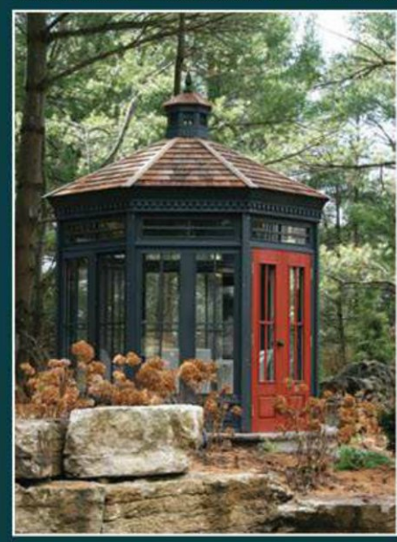

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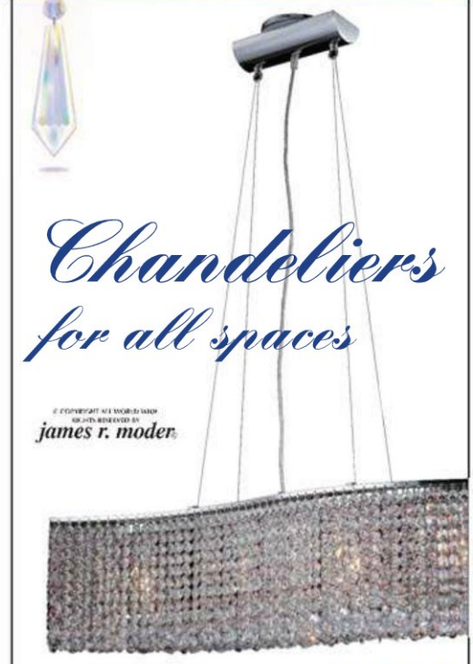

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tastings

perfect pairings **FROM PAGE 114**

Wine expert Angela Aiello selects five spring sippers for our "Spring's First Blush" menu (page 106).

Remy Pannier Rosé d'Anjou, France, $12

Mike Weir Wine Sauvignon Blanc, Ontario, $15

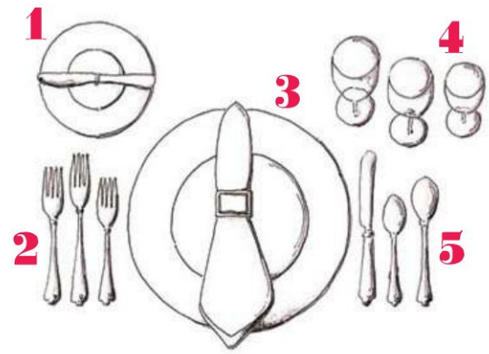
Henry of Pelham Cuvée Catharine Rosé Brut, Ontario, $30

La Puerta Torrontes, Argentina, $12

Flat Rock Cellars Pinot Noir, Ontario, $20

setting pretty

formal luncheon setting **FROM PAGE 60**



1. BREAD-AND-BUTTER Always place the bread-and-butter plate and knife at the top left, above the forks.

2. FORKS The order of your forks, from the outside in, is always determined by the order of your meal, from start to finish.

3. PLATES Start with a charger or a dinner plate topped with a salad plate if salad will be served first at your luncheon.

4. STEMWARE Use crystal or glass stemware, grouping them at the top right. This trio: a white and a red wineglass and a water goblet sit at the top right for easy access throughout the meal.

5. SPOONS & KNIFE The same rule as the forks applies here: work from the outside in, determined by the order of the meal.

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the inspiration

A favourite of Canadian decorating guru Debbie Travis, these Designers Guild scented candles add a splash of colour without making a full commitment.

last LOOK

Every issue, we pick our favourite piece from one of the featured interiors. This month, we've selected these striking graphic candles, which appear in designer Debbie Travis's London home (see "Colour Me Fresh," page 88). **Here's what you need to know about them.**

Designers Guild Zephirine and Trevelyan Scented **CANDLES,** $65 each, 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com.

WHY WE LOVE THEM

Designers Guild is a favourite brand among decor enthusiasts, and picking up a beautiful scented candle is an easy way to get your fix. It also makes choosing the ideal candle for your home a no-brainer.

WHY THEY WORK

Luxury candles are no ordinary candles – these are ones that you want to have out on display. The glass, adorned with unique graphics in funky hues, packs the perfect punch to add a dose of colour to your space.

WHERE TO USE THEM

Place these candles where they can be seen to not only provide a wonderful scent but also act as a colourful, fun accessory. For the biggest impact, display in a grouping of three or more.

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